As a first-generation American, Sheriff McDonnell appreciates the tremendous value that immigrant communities provide to Los Angeles and the nation. And as Sheriff, he is committed to protecting every person and helping every crime victim, regardless of immigration status. That’s why Sheriff McDonnell has taken steps to build relationships and trust with immigrant communities here in L.A. County. Before Sheriff McDonnell took office, the Sheriff’s Department permitted officers to refer victims and witnesses to immigration authorities. Sheriff McDonnell ended that policy. In fact, Sheriff McDonnell prohibited department employees from asking about the immigration status of victims or witnesses. Before Sheriff McDonnell took office, personnel from the Sheriff’s Department were deputized to serve as ICE agents. Sheriff McDonnell, along with the Board of Supervisors, also ended that policy. The Sheriff’s Department complies with SB 54, the California Values Act. That means ICE does not have access to county jails, except to apprehend inmates convicted of specific crimes, such as serious and violent offenses, and other crimes specifically delineated in SB 54. These are just some of the steps the Sheriff’s Department is taking to cooperate with and serve immigrant communities. These efforts are paying off. In his first full year in office, Sheriff McDonnell cut the number of inmates transferred to ICE by 66 percent, compared to the year before. Far fewer inmates are transferred to ICE now compared to the previous administration. From 2015 to 2017, the number of inmates transferred to ICE plummeted 84 percent, compared to the three years before Sheriff McDonnell took office. Additionally, the number of immigrants coming to our department for help with getting a U visa from the federal government has nearly tripled since 2014.