

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALINAS AFFIRMING ITS POSITION THAT ALL PERSONS BE TREATED EQUALLY AND WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT REGARDLESS OF THEIR NATIONAL ORIGIN OR IMMIGRATION STATUS

WHEREAS, it has been and continues to be the policy of the City of Salinas to employ and to treat all persons equally and with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, religion, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, handicapped status, or other status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas has a long-standing and rich culture of diversity, migration, and immigration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas has long embraced and welcomed individuals and families of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas welcomes, honors, and respects the contributions of all of its residents, regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Salinas's immigrant families contribute to the economic and social fabric of the City by establishing and patronizing businesses, contributing to the arts and culture, and achieving other accomplishments which benefit not only themselves and their families, but the entire community; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the United States Conference of Mayors approved a resolution related to comprehensive immigration reform and in doing so noted the following:

1. Immigrants are the overwhelming majority of workers in the agriculture sector, harvesting food that Americans eat;
2. Studies have shown that immigrants are nearly 30 percent more likely to start a business than non-immigrants;
3. The Small Business Administration has estimated that immigrant business owners generate \$67 billion in U.S. business income.

WHEREAS, agriculture remains Monterey County's largest sector in terms of economic output and the single biggest employer; Monterey County Agriculture contributes a total of \$8.1 billion to the local economy ("Economic Contributions of Monterey County Agriculture", Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner, Published June 2015; <http://montereycfb.com/uploads/Monterey%20County%20Economic%20Contributions%20of%20Ag%202015.pdf>)

WHEREAS, it has been reported that "California's \$43.5 billion-a-year farm industry depends on a shadow workforce of undocumented Mexican immigrants" and that "[i]n

Salinas...thousands of undocumented immigrants work 10-hour days, six days a week, for little pay picking fruits and vegetables by hand because machines would damage the delicate crops" ("California's \$43 Billion Farms See Labor in Immigrant Fix"; <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2013-08-14/california-s-43-billion-farms-see-labor-in-immigrant-fix>; 2017 Bloomberg LP); and

WHEREAS, the Salinas City Council is greatly concerned about public safety in Salinas and the mission of the Salinas Police Department is to protect the safety of the public against crimes committed by persons who are native born or immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas wishes to foster an environment of trust and cooperation with its immigrant communities and wishes to encourage immigrants to report crime and communicate with the Salinas Police without fear of being arrested or reported to federal law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas City Council desires to ensure that its immigrant residents participate in civic life and daily activities without fear of being arrested or reported to federal law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas has twice previously taken a position on immigration reform and in doing so has recognized the contributions of immigrant communities in the City (Resolution No. 18962, April 11, 2006 and Resolution No. 20360, April 9, 2013); and

WHEREAS, many cities and towns throughout the United States have adopted resolutions, ordinances, policies, and practices to demonstrate their commitment to equal, respectful, and dignified treatment of all people, regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas desires to similarly demonstrate its commitment to its residents and to all people regardless of their immigration status.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF SALINAS AS FOLLOWS:

1. City of Salinas officials and employees, including its law enforcement officers, shall not take any direction action against an individual solely because of his/her immigration status.
2. The City of Salinas shall not use its resources, including personnel resources, technology, facilities, equipment, or funds to enforce or to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, which is the exclusive authority of the federal government.
3. In accordance with state and federal laws the City of Salinas, including the Salinas Police Department, will continue to cooperate with federal immigration agencies in matters involving criminal activity and the protection of public safety.

4. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to prohibit City employees, including Salinas Police Officers, from cooperating with federal immigration agencies when they are required to do so by statute, federal regulation, court decision, or a legally binding agreement.

5. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed or implemented to conflict with any obligation imposed by federal law. City staff shall monitor any efforts by the federal government to withhold or to withdraw federal funding as a result of the City's policies and practices with regard to its immigrant community and shall take all actions necessary to protect such funding.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of February 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk