

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No.

Resolution of the Monterey County Board of)
Supervisors Designating Monterey County a)
Welcoming County for Immigrants and)
Refugees, and Declaring the County a Place of)
Trust and Safety for Local Immigrants.)

WHEREAS, Monterey County recognizes its long and rich history of immigrants who have contributed to our local economy and have become leaders in agriculture, tourism, the military, education, business, healthcare and other professions; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County is a diverse county with foreign-born residents comprising over 30% of the County's total population and large numbers of undocumented immigrants who face challenges with access and safety due to their status; and

WHEREAS, immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers add significantly to the vitality of the state and national economies, with foreign-born workers representing close to 17% of the current U.S. labor force, and over 33.4 percent of business owners in California; and will account for over 85 percent of the net growth in the U.S. labor force over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the building of a welcoming community is fundamental to a vibrant and inclusive Monterey County, assuring immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers opportunities for economic security, empowerment, civic engagement, safety and freedom from discrimination, oppression and violence; and

WHEREAS, many Monterey County residents have deep concerns about the potential policies and actions by the new federal administration; and

WHEREAS, it is important to make clear that we are one community in Monterey County and all of our children, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, regardless of immigration status, contribute to the social and economic fabric of this county; and

WHEREAS, it is important for our Board to make a statement of support to the immigrant community and for the County to be a place of trust and safety for immigrants who live and work in our community; and

WHEREAS, a relationship of trust between California's immigrant residents and our local agencies, including law enforcement, schools and hospitals, is essential to carrying out basic local functions; and that trust is threatened when local agencies are involved in immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the health, well-being and civil rights of all people regardless of their immigration status, through a dynamic and responsive process that respects the community's diversity, is a shared responsibility between the Board and all County agencies; and

WHEREAS, a welcoming community addresses language and cultural access barriers to services and participation in civic life, promotes coordination of services and resources for

immigrants and refugees across all systems, champions cultural competence and understanding, and strengthens accountability to maintain the highest quality of services for immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County communities are the most equitable when all residents are fully able to participate in the region's economic vitality, contribute to the region's readiness for the future, and connect to the region's assets and resources; and

WHEREAS, a strong community is one that includes people of all backgrounds and invests in all of its people; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County aspires to be a model for inclusion and equity for all populations, including immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers, through its commitments to support the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers, demonstrates values of unity and understanding, by implementing policies and practices ensuring that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey that the Board:

1. Declares and affirms that Monterey County is a Welcoming County; and declares itself a place of trust and safety and urges that no County resources be used to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law or to gather or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals or any other such personal information unless such assistance is required by Federal or State statute, regulation or court decision; and
2. Urges that no department or employee initiate inquiry or enforcement action based solely on a person's actual or suspected immigration status, national origin, race, ethnicity and/or English proficiency; and
3. Commends the Sheriff's Department for its commitment to not inquire about immigration status when carrying out its duties, to generally not participate in any immigration enforcement raids and to building trust with all communities the department serves; and
4. Directs County departments to review their confidentiality policies to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with county services based on immigration status; and
5. Urges, that with regards to juveniles, that all departments respect juvenile confidentiality for all minors regardless of immigration status, pursuant to the recently enacted California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 831.
6. Encourages the District Attorney's Office to consider the avoidance of adverse immigration consequences in the plea negotiations process as one factor in an effort to reach a just resolution in the case of a non-citizen defendant pursuant to the recently enacted California Penal Code, Section 1016.3; and
7. Encourages the Public Defender's Office to continue to provide effective assistance to immigrants facing criminal charges as required by California Penal Code, Section 1016.2; and
8. Supports that all departments continue to support immigrant crime victims and witnesses, and encourages them to come forward to report crime by providing certification of

their cooperation (which is needed to obtain humanitarian visas known as the “U Visa”) in a fair and timely manner; and

9. Promotes the value among all residents of advancing efforts for integrating immigrant and refugee communities, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed; and

10. Supports efforts to bring immigrants, refugees, newcomers and the broader community together to develop policies, programs, and initiatives that build welcoming communities and provide all residents with the knowledge and tools to thrive and fully participate in their communities; and

11. Commits to continuing dialogue with all stakeholder in Monterey County concerning any potential inequities in the justice system and commends the work of our local institutions, organizations and individuals who join in building a climate of trust and support for our immigrant community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 14th day of February, 2017, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book for the meeting on_____.

Dated:

Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Monterey, State of California

By _____
Deputy