

*Before the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California*

**Resolution No.: 25-009**

Adopt Resolution Reestablishing the County of Monterey as a **Welcoming County for Immigrants and Refugees**, and Declaring the County a Place of Trust and Safety for Immigrants; and Authorizing an increase of appropriations (\$25,000) to fund related public service announcements

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

**WHEREAS**, Monterey County is diverse with foreign-born residents comprising over 28.9% of the County's total population and significant numbers of foreign-born immigrants comprise our county's workforce in the agriculture, hospitality and construction industries; 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 19.1% of the 2024 U.S. labor force, and over 38.6% of business owners in California in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, The building of a Welcoming County 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 massive detention and deportation plans by the incoming presidential administration starting in January 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, It is important to make clear that we are One Community in Monterey County and that all of our residents, regardless of immigration status, contribute to the social and economic fabric of this county; and

**WHEREAS**, It is important for the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors to make a statement of support and to advocate for our 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, including improving public safety; and that trust is threatened when local agencies are involved in immigration enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, A Welcoming County 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**, the County of Monterey 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY,**

1. Declares and affirms that the County of Monterey remains a Welcoming County; and declares itself a place of trust and safety for ALL immigrants; and
2. Declares that no County resources shall be used to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, participate in any immigration enforcement operation or joint operation involving any federal immigration agent for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, unless such assistance is required by federal or state statute, regulation or court decision; and
3. 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
4. Commends the Monterey County Sheriff's Office for its commitment to not inquire about immigration status when carrying out its duties, to not participate in any immigration enforcement unless required under state law per the California Values Act (Senate Bill 54, Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017), and to building trust with all communities the office serves; and
5. Directs departments to review their confidentiality policies to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with services based on immigration status; and
6. Urges, that with regards to juveniles, that departments respect juvenile confidentiality for all minors regardless of immigration status, pursuant to the recently enacted California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 831; and
7. Commends the District Attorney's Office, which has since 2012 instructed and trained prosecutors pursuant to the Supreme Court case of *Padilla v. Kentucky* 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 non-citizen defendants, which has now been codified in California Penal Code, Section 1016.3; and

8. Commends the Public Defender's Office for its ongoing commitment to training its attorneys since 2012 on their obligations to inform clients about immigration issues, in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling in *Padilla v. Kentucky*; and encourages the Office to continue providing effective legal assistance to immigrants facing criminal charges as mandated by California Penal Code, Section 1016.2; and

Furthermore, commends the Office for the work it's doing with the immigrant communities in Monterey County to assess the potential and actual adverse immigration consequences resulting from prior criminal convictions, and to evaluate the availability of post-conviction relief that may assist individuals in qualifying for immigration benefits or relief; and

9. Supports that 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
10. Promotes the value among residents of advancing efforts for integrating immigrant and refugee communities, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed; and
11. 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
12. Commits to dialogue and collaborate with stakeholders in the County of Monterey in light of the proposed massive federal immigration enforcement, 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; and
13. Directs staff to continue activities in support of a comprehensive public education campaign entitled "Know Your Rights," to inform about immigration rights; and
14. Authorizes and directs the Auditor-Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget by increasing appropriations by \$25,000 to fund the placement of public service announcements in County Administrative Office- Communications (001-1050-CAO004-8597) financed by a decrease in appropriations in Contingencies, General Fund 001, Appropriation Unit CAO020; and
15. Directs the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to transmit a copy of this resolution to all twelve Monterey County cities, our local state and federal legislators, and the Governor of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Askew, and Daniels

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

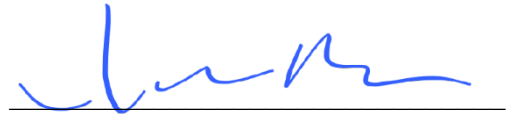
I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting January 14, 2025.

Dated: January 21, 2025

File ID: RES 25-004

Agenda Item No.: 9

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vicente Ramirez', is written over a horizontal line.

Vicente Ramirez, Deputy