

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

REVISED

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA CALLING ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OPPOSING POLICIES WHICH SEPARATE, AND SUPPORTING NON-CRIMINAL PROCESSING OF, IMMIGRANT FAMILIES; TO IMMEDIATELY REUNITE FAMILIES SEPARATED AT THE BORDER

WHEREAS, the U.S. government recently announced it would stop separating families at the US-Mexico border; and ~~ended an immigration enforcement policy that resulted in the separation of~~

WHEREAS, more than 2,000 minors were separated from their families at the US-Mexico border, and an unknown number of minors still remain separated from their families or guardians despite a court order requiring the federal government to reunite them with their families; and

WHEREAS, family separation in our region occurs not only when individuals are arriving at the border, but is an every day occurrence when federal immigration officials detain and deport our community members; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge our country's history of disgraceful and inhumane immigration laws and policies including: the declaration of some humans as slaves who were regarded as inherently "less than" others in our Constitution; the forced relocations and decimation of Native American Peoples and cultures; the mass deportation, labeled "Mexican Repatriation" of Mexican-Americans, most of whom were US citizens, which arguably meets modern legal definitions of ethnic cleansing; the rejection of Jewish refugees who were refused entry to the U.S. during WWII and later killed in Nazi Concentration Camps; and the internment of Japanese-American families which caused irreparable harm to families and children, many from our South Bay community; and

WHEREAS, recently many of our community members and leaders have lifted their voices in righteous moral opposition to the separation of families and the detention of thousands of children, and are calling for their release from detention and declaring that family detention is not the solution to family separation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista is a community that values humanity, and believes that all human beings have inalienable rights, regardless of their country of origin; and

Resolution No. 2018- Page No. 2

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista has a rich cultural heritage including contributions from immigrants around the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista is a member of the Welcoming America Network and is applying to become a Certified Welcoming City; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2017 the population of the City of Chula Vista is estimated to be 31% foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2018" concludes:

"Removal of a child from the family should only be considered as a temporary, last resort. Studies have found that both private and government-run residential institutions for children, or places such as orphanages and psychiatric wards that do not offer a family-based setting, cannot replicate the emotional companionship and attention found in family environments that are prerequisites to healthy cognitive development"; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has called for an immediate halt to the practice of separating families entering the United States, claiming that the practice violates their rights as well as international law; and

WHEREAS, a policy that forcibly separates immigrant families fuels the climate of fear experienced by many immigrants and refugees, causing them to avoid reporting crime to law enforcement agencies, thus making it more difficult to solve crimes; and

WHEREAS, separating children from families, especially when the family is merely invoking their right to seek asylum in the U.S., is inconsistent with the values of the city of Chula Vista; and

WHEREAS, the Chula Vista City Council believes it has an obligation to take a stand against government actions that **it believes** are immoral and inhumane; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista Human Relations Commission has asked the City Council to consider taking actions to oppose policies resulting in the separation of immigrant children from their families, to support non-criminal processing of immigrant families, and support actions or policies that expedite reunification;

Resolution No. 2018- Page No. 3

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Chula Vista does as follows:

1. Opposes policies resulting in separation of immigrant children from their families and the detention of immigrant families.
2. Supports the use of alternatives to detention for non-criminal processing of immigrant families, and supports actions or policies that expedite reunification while allowing families to proceed through the legal court system.
3. Calls on the United States government to immediately reunite families separated at the U.S. border with Mexico, especially in cases where the family is exercising its right to apply for asylum, or in cases when the only offense committed is crossing the border illegally.
4. Directs the Mayor to forward this resolution to U.S. Representatives Susan Davis and Juan Vargas, U.S. Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and President Donald Trump, members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, and the mayors and city managers of the cities within San Diego County.

Presented by:

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor

Patricia Aguilar, City Councilmember

Approved as to form:

Glen R. Googins, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA
VISTA CALLING ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY
REUNITE FAMILIES SEPARATED AT THE BORDER

WHEREAS, the U.S. government recently ended an immigration enforcement policy that resulted in the separation of more than 2,000 minors from their families; and

~~WHEREAS, an unknown number of minors still remain separated from their families or guardians; and~~

WHEREAS, despite the President's recent Executive Order, families remain separated and the "zero tolerance" policy, which criminalizes all migrants who attempt to cross the border and denies asylum-seekers and other immigrants of their rights to due process, continues; and

WHEREAS, despite a lack of transparency, there are multiple reports of immigrant detainees being held in inhumane conditions at detention facilities; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge our country's history of disgraceful and inhumane immigration laws and policies including: the declaration of some human as slaves who were regarded as inherently "less than" others in our Constitution; the forced relocations and decimation of Native American Peoples and cultures; the rejection of Jewish refugees who were refused entry to the U.S. during WWII and later killed in Nazi Concentration Camps; and the internment of Japanese-American families which caused irreparable harm to families and children, many from our South Bay community; and

WHEREAS, more recently, many of our community members and leaders have lifted their voices in righteous moral opposition to the separation of families and the detention of thousands of children, and are calling for their release from detention and declaring that family detention is not the solution to family separation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista is a community that values humanity, and believes that all human beings have rights, regardless of their country of origin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista has a rich cultural heritage including contributions from immigrants around the world; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2017 the population of the City of Chula Vista is estimated to be 31% foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista is a member of the Welcoming America Network and is applying to become a Certified Welcoming City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista confirms its support for the California Values Act (SB 54) and a "clean" DREAM Act; and

~~WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2017 the population of the City of Chula Vista is estimated to be 31% foreign-born; and [MOVED UP]~~

WHEREAS, the practice of punishing innocent children and disrupting families as an attempted deterrent to immigration is a human rights abuse and these practices deprive both parent and child of reasonable due process; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2018" concludes:

"Removal of a child from the family should only be considered as a temporary, last resort. Studies have found that both private and government-run residential institutions for children, or places such as orphanages and psychiatric wards that do not offer a family-based setting, cannot replicate the emotional companionship and attention found in family environments that are prerequisites to healthy cognitive development"; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has called for an immediate halt to the practice of separating families entering the United States, claiming that the practice violates their rights as well as international law; and

WHEREAS, a policy that forcibly separates immigrant families fuels the climate of fear experienced by many immigrants and refugees, causing them to avoid reporting crime to law enforcement agencies, thus making it more difficult to solve crimes; and

WHEREAS, separating children from families, especially when the family is merely invoking their right to seek asylum in the U.S., is inconsistent with the values of the City of Chula Vista; and

WHEREAS, the Chula Vista City Council believes it has an obligation to take a stand against government actions that are immoral and inhumane; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chula Vista Human Relations Commission has asked the City Council to consider taking actions to oppose policies resulting in the separation of immigrant children from their families, to support non-criminal processing of immigrant families, and support actions or policies that expedite reunification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Chula does as follows:

1. Declare its opposition to the current administration's "zero tolerance" policy and call ~~calls~~ on the United States government to immediately reunite families separated at the U.S. border with Mexico, especially in cases where the family is exercising its right to apply for asylum, or in cases when the only offense committed is crossing the border illegally.
2. Direct the Mayor to forward a copy of this resolution to California's representatives of the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and President Donald Trump; our city's State Assembly and Senate representatives; the members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors; and the mayors and city managers of the cities within San Diego County. ~~Directs the Mayor~~

~~to forward this resolution to U.S. Representatives Susan Davis and Juan Vargas, U.S. Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and President Donald Trump.~~

Presented by Approved as to form

AYES: Councilmembers: *** NAYS: Councilmembers: *** ABSENT:
Councilmembers: ***

ATTEST:

Kerry K. Bigelow, MMC, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA) COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO) CITY OF CHULA VISTA)

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor

Resolution No. 2018- Page No. 3

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor Glen R. Googins, City Attorney

Patricia Aguilar, City Councilmember

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Chula Vista, California, this 10th day of July 2018 by the following vote:

I, Kerry K. Bigelow, City Clerk of Chula Vista, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2018-*** was duly passed, approved, and adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting of the Chula Vista City Council held on the 10th day of July 2018.

Executed this 10th day of July 2018.

Kerry K. Bigelow, MMC, City Clerk