

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA OPPOSING POLICIES WHICH SEPARATE, AND SUPPORTING NON-CRIMINAL PROCESSING OF, IMMIGRANT FAMILIES; AND 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, 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

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, 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;

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.
2. Supports non-criminal processing of immigrant families.
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, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and President Donald Trump.

Presented by

Approved as to form

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Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor

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Glen R. Googins, City Attorney

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Patricia Aguilar, City Councilmember