

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2018-119

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA OPPOSING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2017, by the adoption of Resolution Number RES-2017-017, the Santa Rosa City Council unanimously declared Santa Rosa to be an Indivisible City and safeguard the civil rights, safety and dignity of Santa Rosa residents; and

WHEREAS, the Indivisible City resolution opposed deportations based solely on immigration status which split up families; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the government would criminally prosecute everyone who crosses the U.S.-Mexico border illegally; and

WHEREAS, this federal directive has resulted in the separation of children from their parents and has channeled them into detention centers, resulting in suffering and emotional trauma; and

WHEREAS, children and their parents are traveling to the United States to pursue safer, more humane living conditions and often travel long and arduous journeys in pursuit of asylum and better opportunities; and

WHEREAS, their arrival in the United States is often marked by even more egregious harm at the hands of federal officials who impose, entirely by choice, federally sanctioned trauma, which has been deemed “inhumane and counterproductive” by the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, children separated from their families often sleep in cage-like, federal facilities and on cement floors, without proper care, enrichment or support for weeks and even months; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Council stands in opposition to these federally sanctioned actions and demands humane and safe treatment for children and families seeking safety in the United States.

///

///

///

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the Santa Rosa City Council urges President Trump and his administration to permanently stop the process of separating families who are entering the United States without proper documentation and urges members of the United States Congress, including our own senators and representatives, to take bipartisan action to pass legislation that brings an end to this process;

SECTION 2. That the Santa Rosa City Council instructs the City Manager to distribute copies of this Resolution to Attorney General of the United States, Jeff Sessions, and both California senators.

SECTION 3. That the Santa Rosa City Council calls upon the County of Sonoma and all incorporated cities within the County of Sonoma to adopt the foregoing policies, and we will continue to work with local agencies and nonprofit entities, legal services entities, and other entities and groups where appropriate to provide support for families who have any children who were separated from their parents at the border.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and it shall become effective immediately upon its approval.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 17th day of July 2018.

AYES: (5) Vice Mayor Rogers, Council Members Combs, Olivares, Sawyer, Schwedhelm

NOES: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Mayor Coursey, Council Member Tibbetts

ABSTAIN: (0)

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
City Clerk Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney