

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ADRIANE MERTENS, COMMUNICATIONS &
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council consider whether to adopt a resolution opposing the separation of children and families at the U.S.-Mexican border.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed resolution recognizes that the City of Santa Rosa has a diverse population, that the recent presidential zero-tolerance policy based solely on immigration status and resulting in the separation of families has created uncertainty and fear among many communities, and that the City wishes to oppose such inhumane policies.

The resolution (1) urges President Trump and his administration to permanently stop the process of separating families who are entering the United States without proper documentation, (2) instructs the City Manager to distribute copies of the Resolution to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and both California Senators, and (3) calls upon the County of Sonoma and all incorporated cities within the County of Sonoma to adopt the foregoing policies.

BACKGROUND

On February 7, 2017, 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. The Indivisible City resolution opposed deportations based solely on immigration status which split up families.

On April 6, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the federal government would criminally prosecute everyone who crosses the U.S.-Mexico border illegally, resulting in the separation of thousands of children from their parents. This is

an unacceptable practice that contradicts the morals and values of the City and declarations made previously by City Council.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not Applicable.

ANALYSIS

The proposed resolution is a general statement of principles. The resolution states that the 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 and urges members of Congress to take bipartisan action to pass legislation that brings an end to this process.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not Applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Letter

CONTACT

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