



June 29, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

CHRIS COURSEY
Mayor

CHRIS ROGERS
Vice Mayor

JULIE COMBS
ERNESTO OLIVARES
JOHN SAWYER
TOM SCHWEDHELM
JACK TIBBETTS

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Santa Rosa City Council, I am writing to express our opposition to the separation of families who are entering the United States without proper documentation, which has resulted in the forced separation of innocent immigrant children from their parents at our Country's southern border.

As representatives of our City, and as human beings, we cannot not remain silent on this matter.

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. 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. The Department of Homeland Security confirms that, in a six-week period ending May 31, approximately 2,000 children—an average of almost 50 per day—were separated from their parents or adult guardians at the U.S.-Mexico border, and are reportedly placed in crowded, cage-like facilities thousands of miles away from their parents, with no means of communication.

In February 2017, the Santa Rosa City Council unanimously declared Santa Rosa to be an Indivisible City and committed to safeguard the civil rights, safety and dignity of Santa Rosa residents by enacting Resolution Number RES-2017-017. The Indivisible City resolution opposed deportations, which split up families based solely on immigration status, and the City of Santa Rosa holds true to that opposition today.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced last month 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 flies in the face of our community's moral and ethical standards, and the values of our great

nation. The Santa Rosa City Council urges you to turn your attention toward comprehensive immigration reform policies, and away from scapegoating refugees and children. Please exercise your powers to permanently end all policies relating to the forced separation of children from their migrant parents. Additionally, we urge you to immediately reunite the families that remain separated, so that they do not endure further suffering and emotional trauma from the effects of being torn from their loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Coursey", with a long, sweeping underline.

Chris Coursey
Mayor

c: Santa Rosa City Council
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Congressman Mike Thompson
Congressman Jared Huffman