

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED IMMIGRATION CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS & COMMITMENT TO IMMIGRANTS THAT LIVE OR WORK IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, immigration has been the cornerstone of the City of Coachella (“City”), the state, and the nation’s development throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, immigrants are an essential part of the fabric of the City, the state, and the nation and contribute in countless ways to our culture and values; and

WHEREAS, the City has long embraced and welcomed individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, the City respects, upholds, and values equal treatment for all of its residents, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, creating a fair immigration process that upholds our values and honors the courage and tenacity of people who have moved to pursue a better life, upholds our foundational commitment to liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, the majority of California and Coachella residents support modernizing our nation’s immigration laws and keeping families together; and

WHEREAS, the United States is home to an estimated 10.5 million undocumented immigrants and stateless individuals, approximately 16 million people living in mixed-status families, and at least 5.1 million children with an undocumented parent; California is home to an estimated 2.5 million of these undocumented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 19.8 million people who have immigrated to the United States support American families by providing health care, food, and other essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet many—including mixed-status families—are excluded from almost all federal pandemic relief, including access to testing, treatment, and food and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, immigrants—regardless of status—contribute billions every year in taxes, yet many have virtually no access to safety net programs that are vital to ensuring that all communities thrive; and

WHEREAS, creating a fair and humane immigration system will help level the playing field for all working people and ensure that employers cannot take advantage of an outdated system to undermine worker voice and protections; and

WHEREAS, Coachella Valley is harmed when our outdated and biased immigration system does not respond to the needs of the United States; and

WHEREAS, immigration can increase a woman's access to education, economic independence, and autonomy, yet migrant women's work remains unvalued and women are at a greater risk of exploitation, trafficking, and abuse; and

WHEREAS, Black immigrants excel in all sectors of society, yet are disproportionately targeted by incarceration and deportation in which they experience abuse, longer periods of detention, and make up more than 20 percent of those facing deportation, despite making up approximately seven percent of the noncitizen population; and

WHEREAS, Muslim immigrants contribute greatly to the Coachella Valley in forms of mutual aid and emergency relief for all communities, yet have been disparately subjected to bans, visa denials, and denaturalization efforts based on their religion and national origin, and the targets of racial and religious profiling, discrimination, bigotry, and hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, Asian immigrants are the fastest growing immigrant population yet are harmed by lengthy backlogs that keep families apart and prevent them from becoming U.S. citizens, and Southeast Asian immigrants are the largest refugee community in the United States, yet are three times more likely to be deported based on an old criminal conviction; and

WHEREAS, indigenous immigrants have come to the United States fleeing persecution in great numbers in recent years yet have been subject to prolonged detention and forcibly returned to the countries they fled due to discrimination, language barriers, and a lack of adequate interpretation in native languages; and

WHEREAS, Purepecha indigenous immigrants in great numbers have made the City of Coachella and the Eastern Coachella Valley their home and yet are underrepresented and underserved due to discrimination, language, cultural barriers, and immigration barriers; and

WHEREAS, Latinx immigrants represent the largest immigrant community in the United States yet are frequently scapegoated, criminalized, and racially profiled leading to discrimination, hate crimes, and targeting for detention and deportation due to collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the politicization of the Immigration Court system has interfered with the efficient and fair operations of the Immigration Courts and resulted in due process violations.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Coachella strengthens its commitment to immigrants that live, work, and invest in the City of Coachella--as well as their families--by resoundingly supporting the creation of a new fair federal immigration system that focuses on: 1) providing a path to Citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants that live in the United States, 2) ensuring family unity inclusive of recently arrived immigrants and the diverse families in our City, 3) decriminalizing immigrants, 4) dismantling the inhumane practice of immigration detention, 5) demilitarizing the US/Mexico Border, 6) removing arduous barriers, 7) granting resources from local, county, and state governments to partners and nonprofits who will support

individuals in their immigration legal processes, including applications for status and representation in immigration courts.

SECTION 2. The City of Coachella will send a letter expressing the City's support of immigration reform, including the priorities set forth in SECTION 1, to U.S. Congressmembers and U.S. Senators that represent Coachella in Congress.

SECTION 3. The City of Coachella will actively work on an ongoing basis with local organizations to identify other effective ways to support immigrant families that live and work in the City of Coachella and to address systemic inequities and other barriers that stand in the way. The City of Coachella moreover commits to consider the special needs of minority immigration populations in its communities, including but not limited to those of Muslim, Middle Eastern, Arabic, Purepecha, and Asian origins.

SECTION 4. The City of Coachella is committed to protecting immigrants first and foremost through inclusive City policies which are designed with a racial equity lens.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 10th day of March 2021.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2021-23 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 10th day of March 2021, by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Andrea J. Carranza, MMC
Deputy City Clerk