

RESOLUTION No. 01-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MAYORS' CONFERENCE CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AND HATE SPEECH, EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH ALL THOSE TARGETED FOR THEIR ETHNICITY, RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER, ABILITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN AND IN SUPPORT OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants, many fleeing religious persecution, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles.

WHEREAS, approximately 31% of all Alameda County residents are foreign born,¹ hailing from communities from all over the world, approximately 43% speak a language other than English at home,² and approximately 53% of children in the County live in families where at least one parent was born outside the United States³

WHEREAS, the vast majority immigrants in our communities are law abiding citizens, who greatly contribute to the economy, vitality, culture and creativity of our towns and cities. They can also be targets for and victims of crime. As Mayors, we wish to foster trust and cooperation with our immigrant communities, encourage immigrants to report crime, and speak to the police without fear of negative consequences. Many of our cities have adopted city policies as Sanctuary Cities or Cities of Refuge for immigrants from all countries. We stand ready to protect all our residents from acts of hate, violence and acts that violate civil rights protected by the U.S. Constitution.

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, there has been an increase in the form of hate crimes and employment discrimination toward Arab and Muslim Americans, and that trend has continued with incidents on our college campuses and in our communities. We are saddened and outraged at the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against all people including Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, and all people of color.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY

¹ U.S. Census available at www.census.gov

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Census available at www.census.gov

MAYORS' CONFERENCE, DOES RESOLVE, AND DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

SECTION 1: That as Mayors, we have a special responsibility not to stay silent in the face of hate and discrimination against any of our constituents.

SECTION 2: That we stand together to condemn all hateful speech and violent action that targets people due to their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability or national origin and we categorically reject political tactics that use fear to tear apart families, manipulate voters or to gain power or influence.

SECTION 3: That we call upon the U.S. Congress to implement comprehensive immigration reforms that are fair and humane and which recognize the economic and cultural contributions of immigrants and support efforts for universal representation of immigrants in deportation hearings.

SECTION 4: That we commit to pursue a policy agenda in our cities that affirms civil and human rights, promotes civic engagement, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and we reaffirm the value of a diverse society, the beauty of a community composed of myriad cultures, and the right of every person to live freely and without fear and discrimination in our communities.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Alameda County Mayors' Conference at its meeting held on February 8, 2017.

I, Steven Bocian, Executive Director of the Alameda County Mayors' Conference certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Alameda County Mayors' at its meeting held on the eighth day of February 2017 by the following vote:

AYES: Alameda, Albany, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, Union City

NOES: None

ABSENT: Pleasanton, Berkeley

ABSTENTION: None

Steven Bocian

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Executive Director, Alameda County Mayors' Conference