

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE TO REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN TRUST AND SAFETY FOR LOCAL IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville has a long-standing history of supporting its immigrant population through policies and partnerships, including sanctuary resolutions adopted by the County and the City of Santa Cruz in 2017; and

WHEREAS, in November 2024, 35 city and county officials, law enforcement leaders, and elected representatives from throughout the Santa Cruz region signed a letter reaffirming their commitment to protecting immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville’s commitment to protect and support members of immigrant communities as a Sanctuary City and ensure that the City is actively communicating this message in a manner that effectively reaches impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager, or their designee, shall work with community partners to identify opportunities to strengthen resources to help protect and support immigrant communities against policies that may negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of the members of those communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville reaffirms its dedication to its immigrant community during a time of uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, this resolution aligns with the City’s longstanding commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion and upholds state policies like the California Values Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. This action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Resolution is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15000 et. seq.), including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations 15378 as this is not a “project” that may cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment and if a “project,” is exempt under the “common sense” exception (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Watsonville’s role as a welcoming and inclusive community and outlines key actions to protect and support immigrant community members:

1. **Trust and Safety:** The resolution declares Santa Cruz County a place of trust and safety, prohibiting the use of City resources for federal immigration enforcement, restricting the collection of personal information unless mandated by law, and protecting client data.
2. **Supportive Policies:** It commends the Watsonville Police Department for maintaining policies that separate local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement, per the California Values Act (SB54).
3. **Community Engagement:** It directs City departments to review confidentiality policies and ensure that immigration status does not hinder access to services.

4. **Victim Support:** It reaffirms the City’s commitment to supporting immigrant crime victims and witnesses through timely certification for humanitarian visas, such as the “U Visa.”
5. **Integration Efforts:** The resolution encourages initiatives to foster inclusion and collaboration between immigrant communities and the broader population.
6. **Collaboration:** The City will work with stakeholders, community groups, and local organizations to respond to federal immigration enforcement policies and protect vulnerable residents, and to support agencies serving impacted communities.
