



RESOLUTION NO. 40196

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BLOCKER
2 AND McCARTHY

3 A RESOLUTION affirming the City of Tacoma's support for the human rights of all
4 persons, including immigrants and refugees, who live, work, travel through,
5 or seek services within its boundaries.

6 WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 18301, passed May 31, 1967, the
7 City established the Tacoma Human Rights Commission, codified as Chapter 1.29
8 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, to study and investigate problems of prejudice,
9 racism, bigotry, and discrimination, and to encourage and coordinate the
10 implementation of programs consistent with the needs and rights of all residents of
11 the City of Tacoma, and

12 WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 39019, adopted September 30,
13 2014, the City passed the Equity and Empowerment Initiative to support, among
14 several goals, human rights and opportunities for all persons within the City to
15 achieve their full potential, including immigrants and refugees who live, work, travel
16 through, or seek services within the City, and

17 WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 39116, adopted February 17, 2015,
18 the City passed the Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, which encourages
19 communities to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments that
20 maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality to make the City a
21 more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming place for all people regardless of
22 immigration status, and

23 WHEREAS in 2017, pursuant to Resolution No. 39892, adopted
24 December 12, 2017, the City established a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee
25 Affairs to work with community partners, City departments, and within the City's
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1 Equity and Empowerment framework to identify and advance positive outcomes for
2 members of the City's refugee and immigrant communities to enhance their access
3 to and participation in Tacoma's economic, cultural, and civic life, and

4 WHEREAS in 2017, pursuant to Resolution No. 39849, adopted October 24,
5 2917, the City established the creation of a Deportation Defense Fund, and
6 allocated \$50,000 to kick off said fund, with the ability for the public to donate to the
7 fund, for the purpose of assisting indigent Tacoma residents facing deportation with
8 legal counsel at deportation hearings, and

9 WHEREAS the City recognizes that the United States was implementing a
10 "zero tolerance" immigration policy that directly conflicted with the City's Welcoming
11 Cities and Counties Initiative, resulting in (1) separating minor children, including
12 infants and toddlers, from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border, including those
13 fleeing threats of violence or death in their countries of origin, mainly the Central
14 American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, who have entered or
15 attempted to enter the United States legally as asylum seekers, which is permitted
16 by federal law; (2) incarcerating parents on the misdemeanor charge of alleged
17 illegal entry into the United States so that their minor children were separated from
18 them, including asylum-seeking and other parents detained at the Northwest
19 Detention Center in Tacoma, rather than releasing such families from custody so
20 that they can remain together during pending misdemeanor and/or immigration
21 proceedings, which practice the United States followed prior to implementing the
22 zero-tolerance policy; (3) failing to address in such Executive Order reuniting
23 separated children with their parents; (4) failing to track the location of many of the
24 separated children, so that their safety can be assured and they can be reunited
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with their parents; (5) deporting parents in expedited removal proceedings, including those seeking asylum, without their children and often without information regarding the location of such children; (6) deporting parents in “voluntary” departure proceedings, including those with asylum claims, after they are pressured to agree to voluntary departure as the best way to be reunited with their separated children; and (7) diverting limited federal resources to prosecute thousands of asylum seekers and others for misdemeanor border-crossing, instead of using such resources to investigate and prosecute far more serious criminal activities, and

WHEREAS, at the urging of the City’s Human Rights Commission and with the support of the City’s Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, the City, consistent with its long-standing commitment to human rights and in support of the humane and equitable treatment of all persons within its boundaries and throughout the country, joins the state of Washington, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and other public and private organizations and officials in calling for the reunification of the families of separated children and parents; the release from federal custody of all parents, children, and families, pending their misdemeanor and/or immigration proceedings, including all parents held at the Northwest Detention Center; and the following of an asylum law for all those crossing the border and seeking asylum; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City affirms its support for the human rights of all persons, including immigrants and refugees who live, work, travel through, or seek services within its boundaries.



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Section 2. That the City calls upon the United States to:

(1) reunite the families of all separated children;

(2) cease charging asylum seekers with misdemeanors for crossing the U.S.-Mexico border;

(3) cease pressuring parents to give up their right to seek asylum and accept voluntary departure in order to be reunited with their separated children;

(4) release from custody all separated children and parents, and families detained after the June 20, 2018, Executive Order, pending their misdemeanor and/or immigration proceedings, including any parents held at the Northwest Detention Center;

(5) stay the deportation proceedings of separated parents until they have been reunited with their children; and

(6) follow an asylum law for all those crossing the border and seeking asylum.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney