

2017 APR -7 AM 9:31

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KALB AND GUILLEN**

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**RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOODFIN I.C.E. RAIDS, HONOR THE WORKERS AND THEIR COMMUNITY ALLIES WHO ORGANIZED TO DEFEND IMMIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS, AND CALL UPON OAKLAND EMPLOYERS TO ESTABLISH SANCTUARY WORKPLACES**

**WHEREAS**, April 2017 is the ten-year anniversary of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids against Woodfin Suites hotel workers who were organizing for their right to a living wage; and

**WHEREAS**, an anti-immigrant hotel developer, Donald Trump, sits in the Oval Office; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald Trump's hotel company was the subject of a complaint filed by the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) alleging interference with workers exercising federally protected rights, including imposing rules suppressing employee free speech. The Trump Las Vegas Hotel settled the complaint, by rescinding the rule alleged to be illegal; and

**WHEREAS**, President Trump's Executive Order #13768 has vastly expanded the number of undocumented people who immigrated to United States who are subject to deportation, authorized ICE to hire 10,000 additional officers, and ramped up enforcement activity and deportations, leading to a series of ICE raids in February, in which ICE arrested 600 people, including many in California; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE raids separate families, create panic in local communities, lead to the imprisonment of people who immigrated to United States in ICE detention centers with horrendous living conditions, and stifle the courage of immigrant workers organizing for their rights; and

**WHEREAS**, people who immigrated to the United States living in the East Bay have experienced ICE raids, including the April 2007 ICE audit at the Woodfin Suites Emeryville hotel; and

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**WHEREAS**, after workers at Woodfin organized to enforce their right to a living wage, hotel management put 21 workers on unpaid leave, citing their immigration status, and hired replacement workers; and

**WHEREAS**, after a court ordered the hotel to put the workers back to work for several months while the City of Emeryville investigated whether the hotel was discriminating against the workers for organizing for a living wage, the hotel contacted the CEO's Republican congressman, Rep. Brian Bilbray of San Diego, to request intervention by the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS**, in early April 2007, ICE conducted an audit of the Woodfin Suites, which led to the firing of 12 workers on April 27, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego Union Tribune reported that the ICE audit had been requested by Rep. Bilbray on behalf of the hotel owner; and

**WHEREAS**, Congressperson Barbara Lee issued the following statement: "I am deeply concerned by the allegations that another member of Congress — acting on behalf of a campaign contributor — may have gotten a federal agency to intervene in that [labor] dispute in a way that hurts workers in my district"; and

**WHEREAS**, Monica Guizar, an attorney with the National Immigration Law Center, said in an interview at the time that, "Employers often contact immigration authorities... in order to avoid liability. It is a well-known and documented tactic that employers use to stymie union organizing campaigns [and] escape liability for violating workers' rights"; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat and the presence of ICE agents intimidates workers regardless of their immigration status, aiming to send a message to *all* workers that they should not attempt to stand up for their rights; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the Woodfin Suites hotel workers affected by the immigration raids live or have lived in Oakland; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 Oakland has reaffirmed its status as a Sanctuary City; and

**WHEREAS**, since Trump's inauguration, community organizing and solidarity actions have pushed back against Trump's Muslim Travel Ban, and community solidarity was similarly crucial in enabling Woodfin hotel workers to win a settlement of their living wage case three years after the raids; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland hereby commemorates the ten-year anniversary of the Woodfin ICE raids in order to remind ourselves of the unfairness, distress and fear that ICE raids have inflicted on people who immigrated to United States and their families; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City of Oakland hereby honors the workers and their community allies who fought back and celebrates the ongoing organizing efforts of workers regardless of where they are from to win respect and dignity in the workplace, and reaffirms the City's commitment to all workers' rights; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That, as a Sanctuary City, Oakland calls upon employers to establish sanctuary workplaces, where workers are respected and not threatened or discriminated against based on their immigration status.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California

