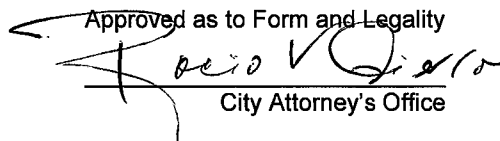


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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KALB AND GUILLEN

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 organized for their right to earn a living wage; and

WHEREAS, many of the Woodfin Suites hotel workers affected by the immigration raids of 2007 live or had lived in Oakland, and many people who immigrated to the United States living in the East Bay continue to be subject to ICE raids and tactics; and

WHEREAS, during the 2007 Woodfin Suites incident, management responded by placing 21 workers on unpaid leave, citing their immigration status, and hired replacement workers; and

WHEREAS, the court ordered Woodfin Suites to put the workers back to work while the City of Emeryville investigated whether the hotel had discriminated against them for exercising the right to organize and demand living wages; and

WHEREAS, news media reported that Woodfin's CEO contacted Republican congressman Brian Bilbray of San Diego to request intervention by the federal government. In April 2007, ICE conducted an immigration audit/raid of Woodfin Suites workers that resulted in the firing of 12 workers. The San Diego Union Tribune reported 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, "[e]mployers 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, President Donald Trump, an anti-immigrant hotel developer, sits in the Oval Office, and according to news reports Trump's hotel company has been 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 and was required to rescind rules and illegal practices; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's 2017 Executive Order No. 13768 authorized removal and deportation of a higher number of undocumented people who immigrated to the United States, approved hiring of 10,000 additional ICE officers, and ramped up enforcement activity and deportations. These activities have led to numerous ICE raids across the country and about 600 arrests many of which occurred in California in February 2017; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Oakland has been a "City of Refuge" since 1986 with the passage of Resolution No. 63950 C.M.S. and the City Council has continued to reaffirm its sanctuary city policy pursuant to resolutions nos. 80584 C.M.S., 81310 C.M.S. and 86498 C.M.S. which was approved by Council on November 29, 2016 ; and

WHEREAS, since Trump's inauguration community organizing and solidarity actions continue to resist Trump's Muslim travel ban; community solidarity was similarly crucial in enabling Woodfin hotel workers to win a settlement of their living wage case three years after the 2007 raids; now, therefore, be it

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

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland honors all workers and their community allies for fighting back against injustice, and celebrates the ongoing organizing efforts of workers, regardless of where they are from, to win respect and dignity in the workplace; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council reaffirms its sanctuary city policy for people who immigrated to the United States, and calls upon all employers to establish safe/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

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