

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON AFFIRMING AND RECOGNIZING THE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS TO OUR STATE'S ECONOMY AND CALLING FOR THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT STATE LAWS AND ADOPT AGENCY POLICIES TO PROTECT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE THE CLIMATE OF FEAR.

WHEREAS, Washington State has a thriving economy that spans both east and west, and encompasses agriculture, food processing, timber, construction, health care, technology, and hospitality industries; and

WHEREAS, Washington employers rely on a diverse workforce to ensure the economic vitality of the state; and

WHEREAS, nearly one million Washingtonians are immigrants, which is one out of every seven people in the state; and

WHEREAS, immigrants make up over sixteen percent (16%) of the state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, fifteen percent (15%) of all business owners in the state were born outside the country, and these business owners have a large impact on the economy through innovation and the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, immigrants make a significant contribution to the economic vitality of this state, and it is essential that the state have laws and policies that recognize their importance to Washington's economy; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this significant contribution to the overall prosperity and strength of Washington State, the City of Olympia has a substantial and compelling interest in ensuring the state remains a place where the rights and dignity of all residents are maintained and protected in order to keep Washington State working; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2016, the Olympia City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. M-1857 declaring Olympia a Sanctuary City to protect immigrants in the City of Olympia from federal immigration policy overreach and to help reduce the climate of fear in our immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. M-1857 says in part: "The City of Olympia shall refuse any requests that are an extension of any federal immigration policy enforcement actions to federal authorities and shall not enter into any agreements to carry out such federal enforcement actions, but leave such actions to federal authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council requests that our Governor and state legislators enact state laws designed to reduce the climate of fear in our immigrant communities, affirm the dignity of immigrants residing in our state, recognize their vital contributions to its economy and communities, protect immigrant children in our schools, and direct the development of agency policies to protect immigrants and their families as much as is legally possible.
2. Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House, House and Senate Majority leaders, our local senators and representatives, as well as U.S. Senator Patty Murray, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and Congressional Representative Denny Heck.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2019.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY