

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12-070R

A RESOLUTION RE-AFFIRMING URBANA AS A SANCTUARY CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana has a long history of defending human rights; and

WHEREAS, Urbana has a special relationship to immigrants because of the very large number, who come here to study, teach, do research, work and create businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 the City of Urbana adopted its Human Rights Ordinance which prohibits unlawful discrimination throughout the City of Urbana; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Urbana adopted a Resolution requiring fair and equal protection of the law for individuals without regard to their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, no federal law requires local police to routinely inquire about immigration status and any such law would likely be challenged on constitutional grounds; and

WHEREAS, in order to support the police-community relationships built up over the years with the immigrant community, ensuring they are comfortable reporting crime as witnesses or victims, local policies must not target communities based on perceived immigration status; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the fact that undocumented immigrants who are in the United States have committed a violation of immigration law, we judge the human, moral, and practical negative costs and actual evils of deportation or other major sanctions against undocumented residents of our community and country to far outweigh the legal circumstances of their arrival and continued residence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of Urbana commits to working with community advocates, policy experts, and legal advocates to defend the human rights of immigrants.
2. The Urbana Police Department will continue to respond to requests from immigrant communities to defend them against all crimes, including hate crimes, to assist people with limited language proficiency and to connect immigrants with social services.
3. The City of Urbana will reject any effort to create religious litmus tests or registries of individuals based on religion or ethnicity.

4. The Urbana City Council and the Mayor will oppose any plan that threatens to strip federal funding from cities which have adopted policies that protect undocumented immigrants and other non-citizen residents from deportation.
5. The City Council and the Mayor will join with councils and mayors from other communities around the country to stand with our immigrant residents and defend policies that welcome and protect immigrants, including New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, New Orleans, Minneapolis, and others who adopt such policies.
6. No city employee or official or department or agency of the City of Urbana shall request information about or otherwise investigate or assist in the investigation of the citizenship or immigration status of any person unless such inquiry or the investigation is required by a court order. Notwithstanding this provision, the City Attorney may investigate and inquire about citizenship or immigration status when relevant to potential or actual litigation or an administrative proceeding in which the City is or may be a party.
7. No city employee or official or department or agency of the City of Urbana shall condition the provision of City benefits, opportunities or services on matters related to citizenship or immigration status unless required to do so by state or federal law or by a court order.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of December, 2016.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this _____ day of _____, _____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor