

Adopted 12/17/2024
Board of Supervisors
DOC-2024-1053 8.a



BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 279-2024

On the motion of Supervisor Koenig:

Duly seconded by Supervisor Hernandez:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ'S
COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING TRUST AND SAFETY FOR
LOCAL IMMIGRANTS

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County celebrates its long and rich history of immigrants who have shaped the local economy and emerged as leaders in agriculture, tourism, the military, education, business, healthcare, and other vital professions; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County is a diverse community, with foreign-born residents comprising over 17.4% of the County's total population and undocumented immigrants significantly contributing to the workforce, particularly in the agriculture, hospitality, and construction industries; and

WHEREAS, immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers profoundly contribute to state and national economies, with foreign-born workers accounting for nearly 19.1% of the U.S. labor force in 2024, and foreign-born entrepreneurs owning over 38.6% of businesses in California as of 2019; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming community is essential to creating a vibrant and inclusive Santa Cruz County, ensuring immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers have access to economic security, empowerment, civic engagement, safety, and protection from discrimination, oppression, and violence; and

WHEREAS, many Santa Cruz County residents express deep concerns about potential policies and actions by the incoming federal administration in January 2025 that will have significant negative impacts on immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to affirm that Santa Cruz County is a community where all residents—regardless of immigration status—are welcomed and contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community; and

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WHEREAS, the County strives to be a place of trust and safety for immigrants who live and work within the community; and

WHEREAS, a relationship of trust between California's immigrant residents and local agencies, including but not limited to law enforcement, schools, hospitals, and County services is essential to providing a safe environment and services to meet people's basic needs effectively; and

WHEREAS, that trust is undermined when local agencies are involved in immigration enforcement activities that are simply based on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, a strong community is one that values inclusion, embraces diversity, and invests in the well-being of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County serves as a model for a just and equitable society for all of its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz resolves and orders that:

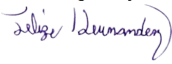
1. The County of Santa Cruz reaffirms itself as a Sanctuary County that is a welcoming community and a place of trust and safety for all immigrants regardless of immigration status.
2. Santa Cruz County resources shall not be used to enforce federal immigration law that targets individuals simply based on their immigration status, gather or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals, or collect personal information unless explicitly required by Federal or State statute, regulation, or court decision.
3. The Board of Supervisors commends the Sheriff for maintaining policies that separate local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement, avoiding participation in any immigration enforcement unless required under State law per the California Values Act (SB54), and for fostering trust with all communities served by the Sheriff's Office.
4. County departments are directed to review their confidentiality policies to ensure eligible individuals are not discouraged from seeking services or engaging with County resources based on immigration status.
5. The County reaffirms its commitment to supporting immigrant crime victims and witnesses by providing timely and fair certification of their cooperation, which is essential for obtaining humanitarian visas, such as the "U Visa."

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- 6. The Board of Supervisors encourages efforts to integrate immigrant and refugee communities and to recognize that the community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed.
- 7. The County supports initiatives that bring immigrants, refugees, newcomers, and the broader community together to develop policies and programs that build welcoming communities, empowering all residents to thrive and fully participate.
- 8. The Board commits to engaging in dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders across Santa Cruz County in response to federal immigration enforcement policies to help create and disseminate resources that will provide the highest level of support to these communities.
- 9. The Board commends the ongoing efforts of local institutions, organizations, and individuals working to build trust and support for the immigrant community.
- 10. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to all four Santa Cruz County cities, as well as our State and Federal legislators.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of December, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Koenig, Friend, McPherson and Hernandez
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Supervisor Cummings
 ABSTAIN: None

DocuSigned by:

 1/10/2025
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 Felipe Hernandez
 Vice- Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  1/10/2025
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 Juliette Rezzatto
 Clerk of the Board

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Approved as to Form:

Signed by:

Jason M. Heath

12/12/2024

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JASON M. HEATH (12/12/2024, 16942)

Office of the County Counsel