



Wilma Chan, SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEES:
Health, Chair
Personnel & Legislative
Unincorporated Services

September 20, 2016

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Designating Alameda County a Welcoming County for Immigrants and Refugees

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution declaring Alameda County a Welcoming County for immigrants and refugees; promoting the value of immigrant integration efforts; and supporting a comprehensive planning process that engages immigrants, refugees, and the broader community in the development of policies, programs, and initiatives that build welcoming communities.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

Alameda County is now the fourth most diverse county in the United States, and is trending towards even greater diversity. In 2014, approximately 31 percent of Alameda County's 1.6 million residents were foreign born. The percentage of foreign-born was even higher in cities like Union City (46 percent), Fremont (44 percent), Hayward (38.1 percent), San Leandro (35.4 percent), and Montclair (34.5 percent).¹

In Alameda County, many of the growing number of foreign-born residents, especially those who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), live at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Threshold. They also face significant barriers to employment, education, language access, health care access, affordable housing, and cultural integration. Unfortunately, the current system of services and providers who work with immigrant and refugee communities is fragmented and lacks a proactive, coordinated strategy that can effectively address these barriers and meet the needs of the immigrant and refugee population.²

In 2016, *Building Home Together*—a network of community-based organizations, community leaders, advocates, and systems serving the immigrant and refugee community—came together to organize a campaign for Alameda County and area cities to formally adopt a resolution that prioritizes being welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees and supports their efforts to create a comprehensive plan that will address the needs of immigrant and refugee communities.

¹ United States Census Bureau, 2010-2014 Population Estimates.

² Position Paper: A Newcomer Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Center in Alameda County, Prepared by Community Health for Asian Americans (CHAA), April 22, 2015.



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On July 25, 2016, the Joint Health and Social Services Committee heard a presentation by *Building Home Together* on why Alameda County should become a “Welcoming County,” and advanced the resolution before you to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration. The Power Point presentation, supporting materials, and resolution are attached to this board letter.

Recognizing that Alameda County seeks to promote inclusivity, diversity, and equity and that immigrants and refugees contribute significantly to the social, civic, and economic fabric of our County, I respectfully request the Board support the resolution declaring Alameda County a Welcoming County for immigrants and refugees.

FINANCING:

There is no fiscal impact to this resolution at this time.

Respectfully,

Wilma Chan



#BHT

A Welcoming County Resolution for Alameda County

Presentation to Alameda County Board of Supervisors' Joint Health and Social Services Committee

July 25, 2016

Presenters: Amanda Irwin (Community Mobilization Manager, Centro Legal de la Raza), Beatrice Lee (Executive Director, Diversity in Health Training Institute), Sean Kirkpatrick (Co-Founder and Member, Building Home Together) on behalf of the Building Home Together Collaborative

Building
Home
Together

Building Home Together

Building
Home
Together

- A collaborative of immigrant and refugee-serving organizations, community leaders, advocates and systems with shared concerns about the state of immigrant and refugee community wellbeing in Alameda County established in May 2015
- **Goal:** to lift up and support the leadership, visibility and voices of diverse immigrant and refugee communities in Alameda County towards systems change
- We seek changes in policy and praxis including:
 - addressing **language access** barriers to services and **participation in civic life**;
 - improving **coordination of services and resources** for immigrants and refugees across all systems;
 - improving **cultural competency and understanding of immigrant and refugee communities** for organizations and systems that support their wellbeing; and
 - strengthening **accountability through policies and infrastructure** built to maintain the highest overall quality of attention to immigrant and refugee community needs and aspirations

Context

- As of 2014, the **foreign-born population in Alameda County** represents **34% or around 500,000 residents**, and that number is growing (up from 27% in 2008)
- Alameda County is the **4th most diverse County in the United States**
- **Broader efforts to create welcoming communities nationally: Building Welcoming Communities** Initiative (Federal, out of the White House Task Force on New Americans) and **Welcoming America** (non-profit, supporting welcoming initiatives throughout the US and in Europe)
- **Current environment** of anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, anti-Muslim, and anti-undocumented rhetoric
- **Opportunity for Alameda County** to become a model for the region and nation in how to embody what a welcoming community can look like in practice

Foreign-Born by District and City (population estimates July 1, 2014)

<u>District</u>	<u>% Foreign Born by City</u>
■ District 1 (Sup. Haggerty)	■ Fremont (44%), Dublin (28.7%)
■ District 2 (Sup. Valle)	■ Hayward (38.1%), Union City (46%), Fremont (44%), Newark (34.6%)
■ District 3 (Sup. Chan)	■ Alameda (26.7%), San Leandro (35.4%), Oakland (27.1%), San Lorenzo (32.6%)
■ District 4 (Sup. Miley)	■ Oakland (27.1%), Montclair (34.5%), Ashland (32.5%), Pleasanton (25.1%)
■ District 5 (Sup. Carson)	■ Oakland (27.1%), Albany (32.2%), Emeryville (26.6%)

Initiatives in the Bay Area

- San Francisco City and County
 - Immigrant Affairs Office since late 1980s housed in GSA-City Administrator's office
 - Welcoming America municipality
- Santa Clara County
 - Strong pro-immigrant policies since 1996 with Office of Immigrant Affairs established in 2015 within County's Executive Office in response to Obama's executive order for DACA
- San Jose, CA
 - Office of Immigrant Affairs recently established in response to Obama's executive order for DACA
 - Welcoming America municipality
- Oakley, CA
 - Building Welcoming Communities municipality

Purpose of a Welcoming County Resolution

- **Affirm that Alameda County is a Welcoming County;**
- **Define and promote the value** among all residents **of advancing efforts for integrating immigrant and refugee communities**, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed;
- **Provide a foundation for bringing immigrants and refugees and the broader community together** to develop policies, programs, and initiatives that build welcoming communities, and provide all residents with the knowledge and tools to thrive and fully participate in their communities;
- Support the Building Home Together collaborative in its efforts to **engage the entire community in a comprehensive planning process that will examine the issues, challenges and aspirations of Alameda County's foreign born immigrant and refugee communities**, examine the systems, structures, resources and programs that support them, and explore new models for effectively serving immigrant, refugee, and newcomers needs.



Asks

Building
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- That the Joint Health and Social Services Committee **support the adoption of the Welcoming County Resolution;**
- That the full Board of Supervisors **adopt the Welcoming County Resolution at the first available public BOS meeting in September 2016**, preferably during or near National Welcoming Week (Sept. 16-25, 2016).



Building
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Questions and Answers



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Thank you for your leadership and support!

Contact: buildinghometogether@gmail.com or (510) 282-7550

Our Vision for Change

Building Home Together sees this work as healing. Our shared vision for change includes the intersection of work, health, legal rights and protections, visibility and community empowerment as they impact all immigrants and refugees. Our efforts seek changes in policy and praxis including addressing language access barriers to services and participation in civic life, improving coordination of services and resources for immigrants and refugees across all systems, improving cultural competency and understanding of immigrant and refugee communities for organizations and systems that support their wellbeing, and strengthening accountability through policies and infrastructure built to maintain the highest overall quality of attention to immigrant and refugee community needs and aspirations.

Change Involves Us All

Building Home Together recognizes that the way our most vulnerable individuals and communities fair impacts and implicates everyone. Working on the quality of life for immigrants and refugees requires building relationships across communities, building allies and being allies for social justice and health equity. It requires creating spaces for curiosity, dialogue and deep sharing, building trust, deepening mutual understandings, cultivating durable relationships, and shifting from a culture that promotes divisiveness and competitiveness between communities to a culture of building, together, a community that is home for everyone.

First Steps

In 2016, Building Home Together is organizing a campaign for the County and area cities to formally adopt a resolution that prioritizes being welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees. As part of this request, we are asking for investment in a process that will engage the diverse stakeholders necessary to create a comprehensive plan to address the needs of immigrant and refugee communities, including pushing for the establishment of a Newcomer Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Center that will serve as a hub for communities and the network of organizations and systems that advocate for and serve them and an Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in Alameda County to hold their needs as a priority.

Immigrant Services Comparison

Topic Area	San Francisco	Santa Clara	San Jose
Total population	852K	1.9M	1M
Foreign-born residents make up 1/3 or more of the population	37%	36%	38.7%
Immigrant affairs office	Housed in GSA-City Administrator's office since late 1980's	Strong pro-immigrant policies since 1996 with Office of Immigrant Affairs established in 2015 within County's Executive Office in response to Obama's executive order for DACA	Office of Immigrant Affairs recently established in response to Obama's executive order for DACA
Immigrants Affairs Office comprise approximately \$1.8-\$2.2 M of the county's budgets	1.8M	2.2M	250K + 500K from Santa Clara County!
Services of the office	Civic engagement, community safety, grantmaking, integrated immigrant services, language access	Immigration reform, coordination of services, immigrant integration, research on community needs, community awareness of immigrant contributions	Welcoming Immigration Plan to address: Equitable access and civic engagement, economic opportunity, education and safe, healthy & connected communities.
Needs assessments	Contributes 50% of total funding for a 3-year public-private partnership between the city and 6 philanthropic organizations, the SF Pathways to Citizenship Initiative. The first year is a pilot needs assessment phase	Committed \$500k to conduct a two-year assessment of human needs of immigrants	Working on a three-year immigrant integration plan beginning August 2015

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016- 303

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ALAMEDA COUNTY A WELCOMING COUNTY FOR
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

WHEREAS, a collaborative of community, non-profit, agency, and other stakeholders have established Building Home Together, a multi-sector initiative to create a vision and strategy for expanding opportunities for New Americans and all other residents in Alameda County, and supporting the leadership, visibility, and voices of the County's diverse immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, the building of a welcoming community is fundamental to a vibrant and inclusive Alameda County, assuring immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers opportunities for economic security, empowerment, civic engagement, safety and freedom from discrimination, oppression and violence; and

WHEREAS, a welcoming community addresses language and cultural access barriers to services and participation in civic life, promotes coordination of services and resources for immigrants and refugees across all systems, champions cultural competency and understanding, and strengthens accountability to maintain the highest quality of services for immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area communities are the most equitable when all residents are fully able to participate in the region's economic vitality, contribute to the region's readiness for the future, and connect to the region's assets and resources¹; and

WHEREAS, addressing quality of life issues, including access to housing, quality health and legal resources, gentrification, healthy and safe communities, living wages, economic stability, and safety from discrimination and exploitation, requires immigrant and refugee communities to building partnerships across all communities, thereby improving quality of life for all county residents; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County is the fourth most diverse county in the United States, with foreign-born residents comprising over 34% of the County's total population, and cities in each supervisorial district having foreign-born resident populations over 30%; and large numbers of undocumented immigrants who face challenges with access and safety due to their status; and

WHEREAS, immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers add significantly to the vitality of the state and national economies, with foreign-born workers representing close to 17 percent

¹ PolicyLink and the University of Southern California's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE), *An Equity Profile of the San Francisco Bay Area Region*, 2015.

of the current U.S. labor force, and over 33.4 percent of business owners in California²; and will account for over 85 percent of the net growth in the U.S. labor force over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the current political environment is marked by anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and Islamophobic rhetoric, requiring of all residents greater awareness, understanding, and dialogue; and

WHEREAS, The President, through the Building Welcoming Communities Campaign of the White House Task Force on New Americans, has called upon local communities to endorse a set of principles to build inclusive, welcoming communities that allow all residents to thrive and advance civic, economic, and social integration; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County aspires to be a model for inclusion and equity for all populations, including immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers, through its commitments to support the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers, demonstrate values of unity and understanding, by implementing policies and practices ensuring that interactions between new and longer-term Americans remain positive ones; and

WHEREAS, Building Home Together is organizing a campaign for Alameda County and Bay Area cities and counties to become welcoming communities for immigrants and refugees, and develop policies, programs, and systems to fully address the issues and needs of foreign born residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY,

- 1) Declares and affirms that Alameda County is a Welcoming County;
- 2) Promotes the value among all residents of advancing efforts for integrating immigrant and refugee communities, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed;
- 3) Brings immigrants, refugees, and the broader community together to develop policies, programs, and initiatives that build welcoming communities and provide all residents with the knowledge and tools to thrive and fully participate in their communities;
- 4) Supports the Building Home Together collaborative in its efforts to engage the entire community in a comprehensive planning process that will examine the issues, challenges, and aspirations of Alameda County's foreign born immigrant and refugee communities, examine the systems, structures, resources, and programs that support them, and explore new models for effectively serving immigrant, refugee, and newcomers needs.

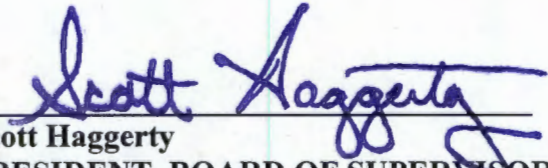
² Institute for Local Government, 2010.

THE FOREGOING was PASSED and ADOPTED by a majority vote of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors this 27th day of September 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Carson, Chan, Miley, Valle & President Haggerty

NOES: None

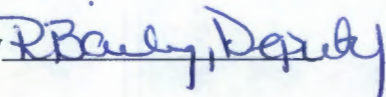
EXCUSED: None



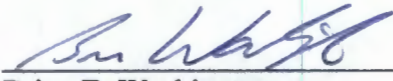
Scott Haggerty
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Attest:
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form:
Donna R. Ziegler
County Counsel

By 

R. Bailey, Deputy



Brian E. Washington
Chief Assistant County Counsel