# SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.32 (ID # 27100) MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 04, 2025

## FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND COUNTY COUNSEL

**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE OFFICE AND COUNTY COUNSEL Affirming Riverside County to be a Vibrant, Compassionate, and Welcoming County for all Law-abiding Immigrants and Refugees.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-055 affirming Riverside County to be a Vibrant, Compassionate, and Welcoming County for all Law-abiding Immigrants and Refugees.
- 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this resolution to all Riverside County cities, our local state and federal legislators, and the Governor of California.

# **ACTION:Policy**

6. Tran eff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer 1/31/2025 Min 1/31/2025

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Medina, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Spiegel
None
February 4, 2025
EO, Co.Co., Local, State and Federal reps.

Kimberly A. Rector Clerk of the Board By: Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:		Next Fiscal Year:		Total Cost:		Ongoing Cost	
COST	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
NET COUNTY COST	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0
SOURCE OF FUNDS:					Budge	t Adjus	stment:	
					For Fis	scal Ye	ar:	

## BACKGROUND:

#### Summary

On January 28, 2025, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Executive Officer and County Counsel to prepare a resolution affirming that the County of Riverside is a vibrant, compassionate, and inclusionary county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees for the Board of Supervisors' consideration at their meeting on February 4, 2025.

The proposed resolution seeks to reinforce the Board of Supervisors' commitment to follow the law and to support for the law-abiding immigrant and refugee community.

## ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A: Resolution No. 2025-055

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2025-055 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE AFFIRMING RIVERSIDE COUNTY TO BE A VIBRANT, COMPASSIONATE, AND WELCOMING COUNTY FOR ALL LAW-ABIDING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

WHEREAS, Riverside County is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population, with foreign-born residents comprising over 22% of the County's total population; and

WHEREAS, All Riverside County immigrant residents, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented residents, refugees, or residents with any other immigration status, are valued and integral members of our social, cultural, and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County recognizes its long and rich history of immigrants who have contributed to our cultural community, local economy, and become leaders in agriculture, tourism, military, education, business, healthcare, government, and other professions; and

WHEREAS, Law-abiding immigrants and refugees add significantly not only to the County's economy, but also to the vitality of the state and national economies, with foreign-born workers representing almost 20% of the United States labor force and more than 35% of business owners in California; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County endeavors to inform all residents that interacting with local government should not put any residents at risk, regardless of immigration status, and irrespective of what service the individual is seeking to access, including benefits, reporting a crime, filing a legal document, or any of the countless other ways a resident and government come together; and

WHEREAS, Reducing language and cultural barriers to services and participation in civic life promotes coordination of services and resources for law-abiding immigrants and refugees across all systems, champions cultural competence and understanding, and strengthens accountability to maintain the highest quality of services for our communities; and

WHEREAS, The recent heightened attention on immigration has resulted in concerns and uncertainty among many, including but not limited to immigrants, vulnerable residents, families in our community, and service providers; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has enacted several statewide laws as a deliberate declaration that California recognizes and values the contributions of immigrants in our communities, including:

- The TRUST Act, Assembly Bill 4 (Chapter 570, Statutes of 2013), which limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement can detain individuals on behalf of federal immigration authorities; and
- The TRUTH Act, Assembly Bill 2792 (Chapter 768, Statutes of 2016), which ensures transparency and oversight regarding local law enforcement's communication with federal immigration authorities; and

VED COUNTY COUNSE

- The VALUES Act, Senate Bill 54 (Chapter 495, Statutes of 2017), which limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement may use funds or personnel to support immigration enforcement and prevents police and sheriff's deputies from asking about an individual's immigration status, from sharing a person's personal information with immigration authorities, unless otherwise required or permitted by law, or from arresting anyone only for having a deportation removal order or for most other immigration violations; and
- California Welfare and Institutions Code section 831, which: 1) clarifies that juvenile court records and information are confidential regardless of a youth's immigration status;
   2) makes clear that federal officials do not get automatic access to juvenile court records and must petition the juvenile court in order to be permitted access; and, 3) states that a child's name and immigration status are protected by California's confidentiality laws and cannot be disclosed without court permission; and
- California Government Code section 7285.1, which prohibits employers from voluntarily
  allowing ICE agents access to non-public areas of their workplaces or employee records
  without a judicial warrant; and
- California Government Code section 7285.2, which prohibits employers from allowing ICE agents to access, review, or obtain the employer's employee records without a subpoena or judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has an established history of taking steps to support immigrants in Riverside County, including:

- Adopting a resolution in 2013 in support of comprehensive immigration reform, advocating for security/national defense, a tough but fair pathway to citizenship, a guest worker program for agricultural workers and other subsistence-wage workers, a special provision to ensure minor children are treated separately, a registration program with the government to combat visa overstays, and an improved process for admitting future workers to serve our nation's workforce needs while simultaneously protecting all workers (Resolution No. 2013-050); and
- Adopting a resolution in 2018 in support of undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children ("Dreamers") and/or participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, advocating for a federal legislative solution to allow Dreamers to remain in the country (Resolution No. 2018-028); and
- Creating subject matter expert attorney and paralegal positions for the Law Offices of the Public Defender's Office to provide legal assistance to noncitizen indigent clients facing criminal charges in state court, allowing the County to provide effective legal assistance to noncitizen clients as required pursuant to the United States Supreme Court decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 559 U.S. 356 (2010) (Item 3.25 on the Board of Supervisors agenda for October 23, 2018); and
- Adopting a resolution in 2023 establishing the Eastern Coachella Valley Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, also known as ECV Prospera, will result in funding for expanded public infrastructure (including but not limited to infrastructure for water and

wastewater, transportation, utilities, and telecommunication) and for improvements to the Salton Sea (Resolution No. 2023-051); and

• Enhancing efforts to provide meaningful access to Spanish-speaking residents at Board of Supervisors' meeting by providing simultaneous Spanish interpretation of all comments made by board members, county staff, and members of the public, resulting in increased understanding, engagement and civic participation (Item 3.6 on the Board of Supervisors agenda for November 7, 2023); and

WHEREAS, It is important that Riverside County remains a vibrant, compassionate, and welcoming county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees, and that we are One County and that all of our residents, regardless of immigration status, contribute to the social and economic fabric of this county.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside:

- 1. Affirms that Riverside County is a vibrant, compassionate, and welcoming county for all law-abiding immigrants and refugees; and
- 2. Commits to safeguarding the civil rights of all our residents to the fullest extent provided by the law; and
- 3. Directs all County departments to continue to follow California state law, including the TRUST Act, the TRUTH Act, the VALUES Act, and Welfare and Institutions Code sections 827 et seq, Government Code sections 7285.1 and 7285.2 (and as they may be subsequently amended); and
- 4. Confirms that no County department or employee will initiate inquiry or enforcement action based solely on a person's actual or suspected immigration status, national origin, race, ethnicity and/or English proficiency, unless required to do so by state or federal law; and
- 5. Directs all County departments to review their confidentiality policies to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with services based on immigration status; and
- 6. Promotes the value among residents of advancing efforts for integrating law-abiding immigrant and refugee communities, recognizing that a community is strongest when everyone feels welcomed; and
- 7. Continues to advocate for comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate immigration reform and collaborate with stakeholders (including local institutions, organizations, and individuals) who are committed to this work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside:

 Intends that this Resolution shall not be construed to prohibit any County department's assistance or cooperation with federal authorities if required by state and/or federal laws; and 9. Intends that this Resolution shall not be construed to affect the independent and constitutionally designated investigative and prosecutorial functions of the Sheriff and District Attorney as provided in Government Code section 25303.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Medina, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

Nays: Spiegel

Absent: None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

1. By Deputy