

Amy Harvey

From: Erik Valera <erikvalera@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 10:02 PM
To: Amy Harvey
Subject: Petition for Town Council to Adopt a Resolution Supporting Immigrant Communities
Attachments: State of North Carolina.pdf; Resolution for CH regarding immigrants.docx

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Dear Deputy Town Clerk, Amy Harvey

I hope this message finds you well.

I would like to petition the Chapel Hill Town Council to adopt a resolution supporting immigrant communities at the next possible meeting, and seek your support and guidance with this process.

You may be aware, recent developments at the state level have raised concerns within our community. Approximately two weeks ago, House Speaker Tim Moore announced intentions to reintroduce HB10—a bill mandating that all law enforcement and jail personnel collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain individuals accused of crimes for up to 48 hours, allowing ICE to verify their immigration status. Despite passing the House in 2023, the bill stalled in the Senate but is poised for reconsideration during the 2024 NCGA short session with increased partisan support.

Chapel Hill has a commendable history of defending immigrants' rights, with local law enforcement agencies like the Guardians of the Hill, Carrboro PD, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office advocating for policies that ensure public safety and to protect the well-being of all residents, irrespective of their immigration status. Our community leaders, including our Police Chief and Town Manager, have been exemplary in their efforts to engage with immigrant communities, fostering a climate of trust and safety. However, the rhetoric employed by state House and Senate leaders, exploiting the complexities of immigration policy and the humanitarian crisis at the border for political advantage, threatens to undermine these local achievements.

In a significant move, the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs unanimously passed a resolution on February 8th supporting immigrant communities and called on North Carolinians to encourage their local officials to do the same.

This resolution, ahead of the NCGA's 2024 short session, would send a powerful message affirming our commitment to the safety, well-being, and dignity of immigrant communities and supporting the autonomy of local law enforcement to prioritize public safety in a manner that reflects our community's values.

Enclosed with this email, you will find the resolution passed by the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, along with a document proposing language to aid in drafting a resolution for the Town Council's consideration.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to bringing this matter to our Town Council at the next possible meeting. I appreciate your support and guidance regarding next steps.

Warm regards,
Erik Valera
Chapel Hill, NC
erikvalera@outlook.com



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

Governor's Advisory Council for Hispanic and Latino Affairs

Resolution: In support of Immigrant Communities in North Carolina

WHEREAS, the pursuit of effective, just, and fair immigration reforms is critical to the betterment of the State of North Carolina and the United States, ensuring that this State remains the best place to live, work, and raise a family, and

WHEREAS, immigrants have played a pivotal role in shaping and constructing the very foundations of this nation, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is a safer, more culturally rich community because of the contributions of immigrants across the State. Statistically speaking, immigrants are less likely to commit a crime and more likely to start a business and remain in good health, making our State more prosperous and vibrant, and

WHEREAS, immigrant families overwhelmingly enroll their children in traditional public school systems, and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, immigration will play an ever increasing role in alleviating labor shortages. The contributions of immigrants in North Carolina is profoundly felt in our workforce, as immigrants have higher labor force participation rates than native-born North Carolinians, help address our growing workforce challenges and increase the tax revenues in the State, and

WHEREAS, global challenges including income inequality, climate change, and civil strife have created major humanitarian crises, causing children and families to flee their homes, and

WHEREAS, across North Carolina, Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs are building trust with immigrant communities, increasing overall community safety, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution makes it clear that the power to enforce immigration laws rests with the federal government, and

WHEREAS, the federal government can simultaneously uphold the values and laws of this nation and work in a bipartisan fashion to address humanitarian needs and border security, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, request the Governor and legislative leaders to work with the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic and Latino Affairs' Education Committee to focus the state's resources on providing a sound, basic education for every child in North Carolina, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, request the Governor and legislative leaders to work with the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic and Latino Affairs' Policy and Legislative committee to implement solutions to improve community safety and collaboration between immigrant communities and law enforcement agencies, including expanding drivers licenses for individuals without status, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, encourage continued bipartisan negotiations by Congressional leaders to address humane border security and a pathway to legalization for people living without status in the United States, including a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and individuals with Temporary Protected Status, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States upholds its historical commitments to refugees and asylees as noted in the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

Draft: Resolution: Support of Immigrant Communities in Chapel Hill

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill recognizes the vital role that immigrants have played and continue to play in the growth, diversity, and prosperity of our community; and

WHEREAS, our town upholds the values of inclusivity, equity, and justice as cornerstones of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill is a welcoming community and prides itself on being a Place for Everyone; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration between immigrant communities and local law enforcement is essential for the safety and well-being of all residents; and

WHEREAS, equitable access to municipal services, education, and opportunities for civic engagement for all residents, regardless of immigration status, is essential to the fabric of our town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of Chapel Hill:

Commits to fostering a welcoming environment for all immigrants living in, working in, and contributing to our town.

Advocates for policies at the state and federal level that provide a clear path to citizenship for undocumented residents and protect the rights of refugees and asylees.

Supports local initiatives to provide all residents with access to municipal services, including education and law enforcement protection, regardless of immigration status.

Empowers and encourages law enforcement officials to intentionally foster trust and cooperation with our diverse immigrant communities,

Encourages the community to engage in dialogue and cultural exchange to bolster mutual understanding and respect among all residents of Chapel Hill.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024, by the Chapel Hill Town Council.