

RESOLUTION NO. 2017- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM DESIGNATING THE CITY OF ANAHEIM AS A WELCOMING CITY THAT RESPECTS THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE AND PROMOTES PROGRAMS TO FOSTER INCLUSION FOR ALL OUR RESIDENTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Anaheim was established by immigrants 160 years ago, and our history is one of welcoming those seeking the opportunity for a better life and we continue to draw strength from that diversity; and

WHEREAS, the City of Anaheim is the tenth largest city in California and has a population of over 360,000 people, where nearly forty percent of all Anaheim residents are immigrants or children of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Anaheim is a diverse community where there are over 40 different languages spoken by a variety of immigrant populations and over sixty-one percent of residents speak another language other than English in their home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Anaheim is also well established as a world-class destination that welcomes over twenty million visitors annually to our city; and

WHEREAS, fostering a welcoming environment and treating all individuals with compassion and respect, regardless of race, ethnicity, place of origin, or citizenship status enhances Anaheim's cultural fabric, economic growth, global competitiveness and overall prosperity for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Anaheim is committed to ensuring a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants and refugees, are welcomed, accepted and encouraged to participate fully in civic, economic and social life; and

WHEREAS, foreign-born Anaheim residents are a vital part of our community, bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses and contributing to the vibrant diverse community that we all value; and

WHEREAS, community efforts that promote understanding and bridge our long-term residents and newcomers is crucial by encouraging and preserving Anaheim's welcoming environment; and,

WHEREAS, the Anaheim Police Department has worked tirelessly to develop strong and trusted relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement, that are a foundation for a safer and stronger community; and

WHEREAS, Anaheim is a safer community when all people feel safe reporting crimes to the Anaheim Police Department, which operates under a policy of treating all persons in a professional and courteous manner regardless of their citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City of Anaheim initiated a Mayor's Task Force on Welcoming Anaheim, consisting of residents, non-profits, religious organizations, and stakeholders, in order to further study the issue of becoming a welcoming city; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force discussed a number of topics related to the integration of new residents into our community and heard from local academics about some of the challenges that may exist for new residents, including immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Task Force approved a series of recommendations and suggestions moving forward that seek to incorporate best practices with regard to establishing a more welcoming community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Anaheim, that the City of Anaheim is committed to being a "Welcoming City" and sustaining a community where all of our residents feel welcome, safe and able to fully participate in, and contribute to our city's civic, economic and social life; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Anaheim will become an official member of Welcoming America, a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting communities that are committed to fostering a vibrant and welcoming community for all residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Anaheim will continue to work with local school districts and other local non-profits in order to enhance collaboration on programs aimed at serving some of our newest residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council encourages the City Manager to consider designating a services coordinator position in the city that would be responsible for overseeing efforts on immigrant integration and coordination among local stakeholders and partners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff will seek to maintain, refine or develop City privacy policies aimed at protecting the privacy of our residents and any information that they may share with the City in order to ensure trust with our residents and to promote civic engagement and participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Anaheim encourages business leaders, civic groups, government agencies and community institutions to undertake their own initiatives beyond this resolution, to make Anaheim not only a welcoming place for new residents from other countries, but also a major center of global commerce and tourism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City Council will direct staff to take action, within their granted oversight, for the benefit of the Anaheim community as a whole.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION is approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Anaheim this ____ day of _____, 2017, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CITY OF ANAHEIM

By: _____
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ANAHEIM