

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO'S SUPPORT AND PROTECTIONS FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo is a diverse community of residents of all abilities, gender identities, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, all of whom contribute to the cultural, social, and economic vitality of our community; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recognizes that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths and remains committed to working towards a society where all residents feel welcomed, valued, and protected in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors acknowledges that the rhetoric and anticipated policies of the new federal administration have created immense fear, anxiety, and uncertainty for many communities, particularly immigrant populations, women, People of Color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and other historically marginalized groups; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo is committed to advancing equity and belonging, where all residents can live, work, and thrive, free from discrimination, harassment, or harm;

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 21-672 to advance and improve the County's racial equity efforts, acknowledge the historical and systemic inequities faced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and commit to establishing an Office of Racial and Social Equity, a Chief Equity Officer position, and a Racial and Social Equity Action Plan to guide countywide efforts; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2024, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted Chapter 1.50 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code to promote racial and social equity, inclusion, and belonging, setting forth specific goals including integrating equity as a core value for strategic and budgeting decisions, increasing diverse representation on County boards and commissions, and increasing community engagement efforts to ensure all residents can participate fully in civic life; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County was nationally recognized in January 2024 as a "Certified Welcoming County," reflecting actions the Board of Supervisors and County officials have taken to help residents of all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds feel welcomed, valued, and protected; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County has supported its diverse immigrant communities by providing funding for arriving unaccompanied immigrant minors and immigration legal services, establishing the Removal Defense Fund and Rapid Response Network, holding "Know Your Rights" trainings, contributing to the Immigrant Families Recovery Fund to provide financial assistance to immigrant families ineligible for the federal child tax credit, and taking other actions to provide support to immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated its commitment to advancing the rights and dignity of LGBTQIA+ individuals by establishing and supporting the County's LGBTQIA+ Commission, which advises on policies, programs, and initiatives that address the needs and priorities of LGBTQIA+ residents; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has demonstrated its commitment to advancing equity for women and children by establishing a dedicated Women and Children's Officer position and adopting a comprehensive Women and Children's Action Plan, which identifies key strategies to address inequities, promote safety and well-being, expand access to services, and enhance opportunities for women and children across the County; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has supported people with disabilities by hosting and promoting events such as the annual Inclusion Festival, which celebrates the County's diversity and fosters understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals of all abilities through interactive activities, performances, and resources for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo reaffirms its unwavering support and protections for immigrants, women, People of Color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities across San Mateo County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo reaffirms its support for numerous efforts that protect and uplift vulnerable communities, including, but not limited to: the Action Plan for economic mobility for women and children, the San Mateo County Pride Center and Pride Celebration, the

County Office of Community Affairs Immigrant Services team, outreach to immigrant communities regarding immigrant rights and available resources, the County Office of Racial and Social Justice, and the annual Inclusion Festival celebrating diversity and inclusion of people with disabilities.

* * * * *