

RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS RESIDING IN SAN MATEO COUNTY BY ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS; ESTABLISHING A LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$267,500; AND DEVELOPING A COUNTYWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICY

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

WHEREAS, according to the American Community Survey, a third of San Mateo County residents are foreign born and United States census data reflects that nearly half of San Mateo County residents speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2010, the size of San Mateo County's immigrant population increased at a rate larger than any other California county; and

WHEREAS, while the County's immigrant population adds vibrancy and diversity to our communities, many immigrants face unique challenges that are exacerbated by linguistic, cultural, and financial barriers and, owing to the present climate, many of our immigrant neighbors live in fear of being placed in removal proceedings, further hindering their ability to participate in community life; and

WHEREAS, this Board has concluded that the County should establish an Office of Community Affairs to promote and provide services that build linkages between County government and the County's diverse community, thereby increasing access to

County services for underserved populations and allowing these residents to better integrate into community life; and

WHEREAS, while the federal immigration courts, rather than the County, have responsibility to determine which individuals are subject to removal from the United States, this Board believes that it is appropriate to make up to \$267,500 in funding available to legal services providers this fiscal year in order to allow for the representation of residents of San Mateo County who are contesting civil removal proceedings in immigration court; and

WHEREAS, nearly 315,000 San Mateo County residents speak a language besides English at home and this Board has concluded that the County should develop a Countywide Language Access policy to help ensure that all of the County's residents can access the County's programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the County Manager is directed to establish an Office of Community Affairs, consistent with the goals set forth in this resolution and the County Manager shall return to this Board at a future date with any staffing or funding plans that require approval of this Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that up to \$267,500 in County funds during the 2016-2017 fiscal year shall be made available to legal service providers in order to provide services for individuals residing in San Mateo County who are respondents in civil removal proceedings before the immigration court (United States Executive Office for Immigration Review). The County Manager, working in consultation with the County

Counsel, shall negotiate and execute, on behalf of the County, contracts with legal service providers related to this funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Manager is directed to work with appropriate County staff to research and develop a plan to implement a countywide Language Access Policy and to return to this Board at a later date with such a plan for this Board's consideration.

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