

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the sense of the Council that all residents of the District deserve safety and security, regardless of immigration status, and that the Council opposes federal raids that jeopardize residents' privacy, safety, and security on suspicion of immigration status issues.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council Regarding Federal Immigration Raids Resolution of 2016".

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) The current influx of migrants from Central America and other countries around the world is a humanitarian crisis.

(2) Many of the migrants coming to the District and other municipalities are children, and many are fleeing gang threats, murder, extortion, rape, and other abuses in addition to poverty and social exclusion.

(3) Between January 2014 and December 2015, as many as 83 migrants deported to the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras) from the United States were murdered upon their return.

33 (4) When families are detained because of immigration status issues, they are  
34 often held in conditions that cause them further trauma. This is inconsistent with the values of  
35 the District.

36 (5) Starting early in 2016, federal immigration authorities conducted widespread  
37 raids to apprehend over 400 mothers, children and youth who crossed the southern border since  
38 2014. The Obama administration has repeatedly targeted recent migrants from El Salvador,  
39 Guatemala, and Honduras, the overwhelming majority of whom demonstrate credible fear of  
40 persecution in their countries of origin but are unable to find legal representation to fight for their  
41 right to stay lawfully in the United States.

42 (6) Raids conducted to locate and arrest migrants who may be subject to  
43 deportation fosters distrust between residents and law enforcement, which harms public safety  
44 efforts and causes entire populations to avoid the police protection they deserve.

45 (7) The District has made many strong commitments to protecting children and  
46 families. Migrant children and families are deserving and in need of those commitments as well.

47 (8) The District is committed to treating migrants as full members of the  
48 community in many ways, such as by providing licenses and photo identification to residents  
49 who cannot document their residency status so that they can work, access services, and otherwise  
50 participate in society.

51 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the deportation raids targeting Central American  
52 refugee youth and families unjustly threaten the safety, well-being, and human rights of migrants  
53 in the District of Columbia and elsewhere and should be halted immediately.

54           Sec. 4. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the  
55 President of the United States, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Bureau of  
56 Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

57           Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in  
58 the District of Columbia Register.