



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 31, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Ben Bartlett and Kate Harrison

Subject: Referral to Peace and Justice Commission to Further Protections for Immigrants and Religious Minorities

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution referring to the Peace and Justice Commission to:

1. Identify entities involved in attempts to create databases and registries used to target immigrants and religious minorities, and make recommendations to the City Council on divesting from such entities; and
2. Identify all service providers to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and make recommendations to the City Council on prohibiting city investment in such service providers.

BACKGROUND

On January 27, 2017, the President signed Executive Order 13769, commonly known as the Muslim travel ban. This order, as well as the proposed construction of a border wall, the possible termination of DACA, and the usage of social media data to target and detain immigrants across the nation, has posed serious threats to the privacy, safety, dignity, and quality of life to many members of the Berkeley Community.

On March 14, 2017, the Berkeley City Council voted to divest City funds from companies involved in the border wall construction. We must continue this effort, as well as regional and state level efforts to protect the sanctuary of our communities.

My office recommends that the City of Berkeley examine the companies it does business with and find ways to disengage from companies found to be involved with creating databases and registries used for targeting immigrants and religious minorities. We also recommend that the City of Berkeley divest from all service providers to the US ICE.

It is our duty to uphold and promote values of inclusion and shared prosperity. We need longer tables, not higher walls.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett, 510-981-7130

ATTACHMENT

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DIRECTING THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO DIVEST FROM ALL ENTITIES INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTS TO TARGET IMMIGRANTS AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND PROHIBIT CITY INVESTMENT IN SERVICE PROVIDERS TO US IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, this country has thrived from the contributions and achievements by immigrants, who have been a part of this country's history since its inception; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to the economy in taxes estimated to be \$11.4 billion nationwide and \$3.1 billion in just California; and

WHEREAS, the current administration has proposed a border wall, implemented a Muslim travel ban, and threatened to terminate DACA, actions which pose serious threats to the safety of many members of the Berkeley community; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Ben Bartlett introduced a resolution on March 14, 2017 proposing divestment from companies involved in the border wall's construction, currently being reviewed by the Peace and Justice Commission; and

WHEREAS, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement is continuing to threaten the privacy of many undocumented immigrants through the usage of social media data to identify and detain immigrants, which affects much of the Berkeley community; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the US ICE are blatant violations of privacy, and threats to the well-being and safety of immigrants and religious minorities; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley city works hard to be a city of embracement and unity regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley desires to retain its Sanctuary City status and protect its individuals and policy, it is imperative that the city divests from entities involved in marginalizing immigrants and religious minorities; and

WHEREAS, providing additional funds to US ICE would only help to further the xenophobic agenda of our current administration and put our community's immigrants and religious minorities at even larger risk.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley refers to the Peace & Justice Commission to 1) identify all entities involved in the attempts to create databases and registries used to target immigrants and religious minorities, and make recommendations to the City Council on divesting from such entities; and 2) identify all service providers to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and make recommendations to the City Council on prohibiting city investment in such service providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley expresses the intent to divest, as soon as practicable, from entities involved in the attempts to create databases and registries used to target immigrants and religious minorities, and the intent to prohibit city investment in service providers to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.