

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-027

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARD THE CIVIL RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND DIGNITY OF ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont is made up of individuals, both native born and immigrants, whose collective cultures, religions, backgrounds, orientations, abilities, and viewpoints join to form a healthy community that prides itself on being a place that welcomes persons and families of all walks of life regardless of how long they have lived here or where they came from; and

WHEREAS, there has been a sense of uncertainty and fear among communities in Belmont and across our State and the Nation due to the recent change of national policies; and

WHEREAS, the City wants to reassure its residents and visitors that Belmont is a place that celebrates diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the City will not tolerate any prejudice, racism, bigotry, hatred, bullying, or violence towards any groups within our community; and

WHEREAS, the City rejects any attempt to intimidate, threaten, or otherwise marginalize members of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to declare that Belmont is a safe place for everyone, including vulnerable communities regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, or country of origin; and

WHEREAS, the City assures its vulnerable communities that the City supports them, will do all it can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and will not tolerate acts of hate-based discrimination, bullying, or assault; and

WHEREAS, it is the City Council's desire to ensure that all residents, regardless of country of origin, participate in civic life and daily activities without fear of being arrested or detained based solely on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont is, and has been, well served by a professional Police Department with a history of protecting and respecting the rights of all people while working diligently to keep Belmont safe; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of civil immigration laws is not the duty of the Belmont Police Department and can run the risk of potentially undermining the trust and cooperation it has established with immigrant communities, as well as distracting from the core mission of the Belmont Police Department to keep Belmont, its residents, its businesses, and its visitors safe; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to foster trust and cooperation between the City and its immigrant communities and encourages all people to report crime and speak to the police without fear of being arrested, detained, or reported to the Federal Government based on their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City values its long-standing relationship with students and all youth and

wishes to encourage a sense of safety and support among all of our young people; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages all residents and visitors in Belmont to celebrate each other's differences and learn from one another.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

Section 1. The Belmont City Council calls upon all City Departments and employees and all who live, work, or visit in Belmont to speak out against acts of bullying, discrimination, and hate violence and to stand up for those who are targeted for such acts.

Section 2. The Belmont City Council opposes deportations based solely on immigration status, which tear apart families and communities, and calls upon the Federal Government to promptly legislate a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Section 3. City employees, including members of the Belmont Police Department, do not investigate, question, detect, detain, or apprehend persons solely on the basis of a possible violation of immigration law.

Section 4. The Belmont City Council will lead by example in promoting safety, security, and respect for human and constitutional rights, and welcomes opportunities to partner with the Legislature, other jurisdictions, local organizations, educational institutions, residents, and businesses that support and defend all individuals in Belmont.

Section 5. The City recognizes, values, and will proactively work to promote diversity and inclusion within Belmont.

Section 6. The City will protect the rights and privileges of everyone in Belmont, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, country of birth, immigration status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Section 7. The City does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or any hate-based crimes.

Section 8. The City hereby rejects prejudice and bigotry in all forms, including but not limited to anti-Semitism, genderphobia, homophobia, Islamophobia, misogyny, nativism, racism, and xenophobia.

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ADOPTED March 28, 2017, by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes: Hurt, Kim, Reed, Lieberman, Stone