



Pacifica Social Justice - PO Box 501 - Pacifica CA 94044
email pacificasocialjustice@gmail.com

September 6, 2017: For Immediate Release

Pacifica Social Justice Condemns Termination of DACA and Urges Passage of Pacifica Sanctuary City Ordinance

Contact: Carolyn Jaramillo (650) 219-9733
Deeg Gold (510) 501-1308

In the face of national anti-immigrant rhetoric, threats, and executive orders, including the recently announced termination of the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, local governments and school districts across the US are acting to protect their communities by adopting Sanctuary City laws and policies. These laws limit the use of local resources for immigration enforcement, and protect the confidentiality of data on community members. **Pacifica, California's City Council will be considering such a Sanctuary City Ordinance at its September 11 meeting.** Pacifica's two school districts have already adopted resolutions restricting cooperation with, and the release of information to, immigration authorities.

Cities and counties in California that have adopted ordinances limiting cooperation with immigration enforcement include: Anaheim, Berkeley, Corona, East Palo Alto, Glendale, Glendora, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Los Angeles, Menlo Park, Oakland, Pomona, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco (City and County), San Jose, Santa Ana, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Torrance, and Watsonville.

On Tuesday, the Trump administration announced that they were terminating the DACA policy that had been issued by President Obama in 2012. This action may lead to the deportation of over 200,000 young Californians, and over 800,000 people nationwide. For the past five years, the DACA program has allowed people who had entered the country as minors without documentation and who met certain conditions, to register with the government, and obtain temporary legal status, which permits them to attend school and to work.

"I am personally inspired by the courage of the Dreamers," said Carolyn Jaramillo, a member of Pacifica Social Justice. "These young people risked their freedom and their futures to build a movement that put a face on the immigrant community that every day builds the US economy and culture. It is appalling to think that many of these young people may be deported to countries in which they have no roots."

A recent [report](#) by the Center for American Progress found that 91 percent of DACA recipients are employed, and over 45 percent are currently in school. The report concluded that "DACA has been unreservedly good for the U.S. economy and for U.S. society more generally. Previous research has shown that DACA beneficiaries will contribute \$460.3 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product over the next decade—economic growth that would be lost were DACA to be eliminated."

“Pacifica is a small city, but we have a strong sense of community,” said Jaramillo. “We will not allow our limited public resources to be used to harm the people with whom we have been living for years.”

The proposed ordinance states that “Immigrants are valuable and essential members of our community who contribute to our vibrant culture and power our economic engine.” It explains that the safety of Pacificans requires a relationship of trust between the police and the immigrant community and that this relationship is undermined when local law enforcement take on immigration enforcement roles that are appropriately left to federal authorities.

Pacifica Social Justice circulated petitions supporting a Sanctuary City Ordinance during the month of April, collecting over 1300 signatures at grocery stores and other Pacifica venues over five weekends. “The response was overwhelmingly positive,” said Jaramillo.

The proposed [Pacifica ordinance](#) would prohibit using any local resources “to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes...” Police and other agencies would be prohibited from inquiring into or collecting information about an individual’s immigration status or detaining an individual on the basis of a “hold request” from federal immigration authorities, or making arrests based on civil (as compared to criminal) immigration warrants. It would prohibit use of city resources to participate in a registry of persons based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national or ethnic origin. It would also prohibit Pacifica Police personnel from being placed under the supervision of federal agencies for the purpose of enforcing immigration law.

In January, President Trump issued an Executive Order withholding federal funds from “sanctuary jurisdictions.” In response to lawsuits filed by the City and County of San Francisco and by Santa Clara County, federal judge William H. Orrick [blocked the Order](#), stating it was unconstitutional in that only Congress can place conditions on funding. In August, the City of Chicago, and the City and County of San Francisco joined by the State of California, filed additional lawsuits against threats to funding from the US Department of Justice.

The State Legislature is finalizing several bills regarding these issues, including SB 54, The California Values Act, which would limit local and state law enforcement agency cooperation with federal immigration agencies, and SB 31, the California Religious Freedom Act, which would prohibit local and state agencies from “providing or disclosing to the federal government personal information regarding a person’s religious beliefs, practices, or affiliation...” and would prohibit state agencies from providing information to such a database.

Said Jaramillo, “The Pacifica ordinance would be consistent with these proposed state laws, and ensure that Pacifica residents, workers, and visitors have the highest degree of protection we can legally provide.”