RESOLUTION NO. 2010-316

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
ADVANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AND AFFIRMING THE SEPARATION BETWEEN
COUNTY SERVICES AND THE ENFORCEMENT
OF FEDERAL CIVIL IMMIGRATION LAW

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Clara is home to a diverse and vibrant community of people representing many races, ethnicities, and nationalities, including immigrants from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of all County residents are foreign born, and approximately two-thirds live in families with at least one foreign-born member; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that fostering a relationship of trust, respect, and open communication between County employees and County residents is essential to County departments’ core mission of ensuring public safety and serving the needs of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors wishes to encourage all residents of Santa Clara County to report crimes to County law enforcement officials and to use County services without fear of being arrested by or reported to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors believes that laws like Arizona’s SB 1070 erode the relationship of trust between immigrant communities and local governments, subject individuals to racial profiling, discourage crime victims and witnesses from coming forward and cooperating with local law enforcement officials, and make people afraid to seek the services and medical assistance they and their children need, thereby undermining the health, safety, and well-being of citizens and non-citizens alike; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of federal civil immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government and not of the County; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition on the federal commandeering of local resources, the Board of Supervisors has long opposed measures that would deputize local officials and divert County resources to fulfill the federal government’s role of enforcing civil immigration law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has consistently sought to protect the rights of all County residents to be free from discrimination, abuse, violence, and exploitation, as reflected by its enduring commitment to protecting victims of hate crimes, domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking, and immigration practitioner fraud in Santa Clara County; and
9. The Clerk of the Board shall make copies of this resolution available to the public in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California on 8/2/2010 by the following vote:

AYES: CONTRERAS, GAGE, KNiSS, SHIRAKAWA, YEAGER
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Ken Yeager, President
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST:

Maria Marinos
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Miguel Márquez
Office of the County Counsel