

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN JOSE URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
PRESERVE FUNDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE
IMMIGRATION REFORM AND PRO-IMMIGRANT POLICIES,
INCLUDING PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP, THROUGH
BUDGET RECONCILIATION**

WHEREAS, of the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants nationwide, California is home to more than 2 million. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, the state is home to nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the nation's undocumented immigrants, and approximately 25,000 live and work in the City of San José. They continuously live in fear of being separated from their families and deported; and

WHEREAS, the undocumented are more than the subject of political debates, they are our neighbors, relatives, colleagues, and friends. Almost half (49 percent) of the state's undocumented have lived here for more than 10 years. And they are deeply connected to communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, roughly one in six of the state's children have at least one undocumented immigrant parent – and stabilizing and improving the situation of their parents is an investment in our state's long-term future; and

WHEREAS, in the greater San José area, immigrants make outsized contributions to essential industries and make up 68% of agriculture workers, nearly 50% of restaurant and food services, and 43.5% of healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, FWD.us estimates that the U.S. economy would increase by \$121 billion annually if Dreamers, TPS holders, farmworkers, and undocumented essential workers were U.S. citizens, including multi-billion expansions in a dozen state economies, and boosting federal, state, and local tax revenue by \$31 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants have been excluded from federal stimulus aid during the pandemic, even though undocumented immigrants in California pay \$3.9 billion in federal taxes and immigrants in San José pay \$18.2 billion in taxes and hold \$35.7 billion in spending power each year; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the struggle and suffering of our undocumented immigrant communities to the forefront as they worked in frontline, high-risk careers, while facing a lack of access to healthcare and living in overcrowded, multigenerational households; and

WHEREAS, although immigration is a federal responsibility, inaction by Congress and shifting federal administrative policies have created confusion and uncertainty for local governments, who must provide for the well-being and safety of all members of our communities, including immigrant populations. For this reason, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has called on Congress to put aside political differences and urgently come to agreement on meaningful immigration legislation that provides clarity at the local level and helps local governments work with federal partners on immigration issues while serving the needs of all residents; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented Dreamers, DACA holders, Documented Dreamers, TPS holders, and immigrant essential workers, and their families in any economic recovery legislation including through budget reconciliation has been prioritized by Congressional leaders; and

WHEREAS, as our local community continues to confront a public health and economic catastrophe that has claimed more than 700,000 lives and exacerbated deep racial and economic inequities, it is vital that Congress enact protections for undocumented Dreamers, DACA holders, Documented Dreamers, TPS holders, and immigrant

essential workers to secure the health of our nation and to lay the foundation for an equitable economic recovery for all communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, providing a path to citizenship for these individuals and their families not only recognizes the sacrifices they have made for all Americans over the past year, but also the important role they continue to play in America's economic recovery and long-term global competitiveness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE:

1. Calls on Congress to act through the budget reconciliation process to ensure that a pathway to citizenship for undocumented Dreamers, DACA holders, Documented Dreamers, TPS holders, and immigrant essential workers is included in any economic recovery legislation; and
2. Calls on Members of Congress to reject anti-immigrant amendments to economic recovery legislation; and
3. Recognizes the outsized contributions of immigrants in essential industries in San José; and
4. Commits the City of San José to supporting other federal legislation that aims to provide a pathway to citizenship including H.R. 1909 / S. 747, the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, H.R. 4331/S. 2753 America's CHILDREN Act, H.R. 6 American Dream and Promise Act, and S. 264 DREAM Act of 2021; and
5. The City of San José will communicate the relevant contents of this Resolution to their respective targets, including Congressional leaders and the President.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk