

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a community that values inclusivity and recognizes the immense economic, social, and cultural contributions that people of all national origins and immigration statuses have made to this country; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five members of the Austin community was born outside of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has long embraced and welcomed individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and national background, and the City Council declared Austin a Welcoming City through Resolution 20140320-049 to celebrate the contributions of members of the immigrant community and demonstrate that the City strives to include immigrants in all aspects of our city; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 13767, which proposes to build a contiguous 2,000-mile wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border and dramatically increase militarization of the border region; and

WHEREAS, border walls and increased militarization have created a human rights crisis in the border region that has caused significant social, cultural, and economic harm to border communities, and have done nothing to address the underlying humanitarian crises of refugees seeking asylum and families in desperate poverty seeking economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, existing border walls have already caused substantial environmental damage, including flooding, erosion, degradation of public lands, fragmenting of critical wildlife habitats, and migration patterns; and

WHEREAS, the President has threatened to shut down the federal government in order to coerce Congress to provide funds to build a wall; and

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2017, the United States House of Representatives approved the administration's request for \$1.6 billion to start building additional border wall, including at least 28 miles of new levee wall in the Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017, the White House announced its termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, leaving more than 800,000 young Americans, including more than 100,000 young Texans, exposed to deportation; and

WHEREAS, our nation is in urgent need of comprehensive immigration reform to adequately address issues for all citizens and our immigrant population relating to public safety, national security, economic prosperity, and respect for human rights and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13767, H.R.1813, and the end of DACA are damaging to the people and the interests of Austin; and

WHEREAS, border cities and counties across Texas and the United States have passed or are in the process of passing resolutions against the border wall, including but not limited to El Paso, Brownsville, McAllen, Hidalgo County, and Weslaco; and

WHEREAS, a petition signed by Austin residents and organizations reflects their opposition to the proposed border wall, in solidarity with the Texas Border Coalition and the Rio Grande Valley Network of Organizations; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council expresses its strong opposition to the federal funding and further construction of a border wall, which would be ineffective in meeting its stated goal of enhancing national security and would be damaging to human life, the economy, ecosystems and wildlife, historic and archaeological sites, private property, human rights, and international relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council supports legislation that provides comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship for immigrants, including but not limited to DACA recipients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council amends the City's federal legislative program and agenda to (1) support legislation that provides comprehensive immigration reform; (2) oppose any legislation or federal action that would maintain or expand funding for a border wall or physical barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border; and (3) oppose any legislation or federal action that would further militarize the border or maintain or expand the role of federally-funded private prisons for the purpose of detaining immigrants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Texas delegation of the U.S. Congress and to the White House.

ADOPTED: _____, 2017

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk