

RESOLUTION NO. 20180510-048

WHEREAS, the Austin Sanctuary Network (ASN) is a coalition of faith communities, immigrants, and social justice groups that aids and supports immigrants fleeing violence and other dangers in their native countries; and

WHEREAS, ASN is an inclusive community that stands in solidarity with undocumented immigrants who are denied asylum status; and

WHEREAS, ASN seeks to provide physical sanctuary for immigrants who have exhausted their legal options and face deportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a welcoming city that serves and protects its residents regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 memorandum from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement put forth a policy that prohibits ICE officers from arresting individuals at “sensitive locations,” such as churches, schools, and hospitals, unless a person has engaged in terrorism or other violent activity; and

WHEREAS, Hilda Ramirez and her 12-year-old son, Ivan Ramirez, are members of the indigenous Mam community in Guatemala, who fled their country in August 2014 to escape domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Ramirez spent his first birthday in the United States in a detention center; and

WHEREAS, Hilda and Ivan Ramirez have been in and out of sanctuary as they attempt to obtain asylum status; they again took sanctuary at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church after her stay of deportation expired in October 2017, and the

two received a deportation order in late 2017, to be enforced on January 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Alirio Gámez fled El Salvador in June 2015 to escape extreme violence in his country and entered sanctuary at First Unitarian Universalist Church in September 2017; and

WHEREAS, Alirio Gámez and Hilda and Ivan Ramirez have become active, productive members of their community and provide encouragement to other asylum seekers in Austin and elsewhere, including Edith Espinal in Columbus, Ohio, and Carmela Apolonio Hernandez in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The council supports the efforts of ASN to provide sanctuary in Austin to Hilda Ramirez, her son Ivan Ramirez, and Alirio Gámez, as well as ASN's advocacy work on behalf of Edith Espinal in Ohio, and Carmela Apolonio Hernandez in Pennsylvania.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The council urges the Texas Congressional delegation to assist in preventing the deportation of Hilda Ramirez, Ivan Ramirez, and Alirio Gámez, and to commit to help each of them obtain a stay of removal.

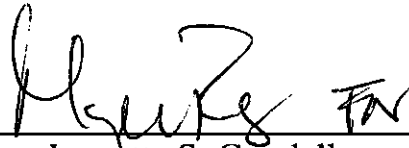
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The city manager is directed to provide certified copies of this resolution to Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Kristjen Nielsen; Department of

Homeland Security Deputy Director, Elain Duke; ICE Executive Director, Thomas D. Homan; and ICE Field Director, Daniel Bible.

ADOPTED: May 10, 2018

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk