

RESOLUTION 2017-200

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN PABLO IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDREN ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM AND CALLING FOR NEW BI-PARTISAN LEGISLATION TO LEGALLY ENACT THE FEDERAL DREAM ACT

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2017, the San Pablo City Council adopted Resolution #2017-196 which amended the FY 2015-17 Council Priority Workplan to add the following new policy item, as follows:

“In support of Federal Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA) Program, and calling for new bi-partisan legislation to legally enact the Federal Dream Act.”

WHEREAS, the San Pablo City Council has a critical interest in protecting its children and young adults from harm, no matter the source, and encouraging their pursuit of their hopes and dreams;

WHEREAS, the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has benefitted nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrant children and young adults in the United States since it began in 2012, and provides a variety of benefits for them including employment authorization and protection from deportation;

WHEREAS, DACA enabled children and young adults in San Pablo and West County region to obtain drivers' licenses; access higher education; develop important skill sets; find work; serve in the military; and generally contribute meaningfully to the economic and social vibrancy of their communities;

WHEREAS, the San Pablo City Council believes that enabling undocumented immigrant children and young adults to live and work in San Pablo and West County region without fear of deportation is fundamentally consistent with the goal of protecting San Pablo's children and young adults and fostering their development as excellent, active members of our community;

WHEREAS, ending DACA will leave approximately 800,000 young people who call this nation home anxious and unsure of their legal status and could result in the deportation of many young people to countries that they do not know, which is fundamentally unfair and repugnant to San Pablo's interest in creating a safe and healthy environment that allows children and young adults to feel safe and to thrive;

WHEREAS, the threatening rhetoric being articulated by certain legislators and members of Federal Government spurred by the U.S. Justice Department's order issued on September 8, 2017 is causing uncertainty and fear among DACA participants who came forward and entrusted the Federal government with their personal information;

WHEREAS, San Pablo's immigrant children and young adults, who entered this country before they were 16 and who qualify for DACA, have significant support in the California DREAM Act (AB 130 and AB 131) adopted into California law in 2011, and supported by the San Pablo City Council, as a precursor to Federal DACA program;

WHEREAS, DACA is good for our nation's economy, and local economies thrive when our nation's economy is strong;

WHEREAS, ending DACA would lead to the loss of at least \$3.4 billion from the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade, which will negatively impact the U.S. economy and local economies;

WHEREAS, DACA recipients positively contribute to the local economy, local schools and San Pablo community by paying taxes, funding Social Security and Medicare, and supporting County and local programs and services. And, DACA recipients give back to the local community by investing their money and to serve as volunteers in local non-profits organizations;

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces rely on DACA applicants to serve through Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), which enlists individuals who are fluent in critical languages or possess medical professional skills essential to the defense of our nation;

WHEREAS, DACA helps further domestic public safety by ensuring that participants can obtain driver's licenses and car insurance, which makes local community's streets and highways safer; and

WHEREAS, California has a long and proud history of support for refugee and immigration policies which balance the rule of law with humanitarian obligations of just enforcement, particularly for children, such as the California DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act which was a package of California state laws passed in 2011 that allow children who were brought into the US under the age of 16 without proper visas/immigration documentation who have attended school on a regular basis and otherwise meet in-state tuition and GPA requirements to apply for student financial aid benefits which allows undocumented students to qualify for resident tuition rates at California's public state colleges and universities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of San Pablo hereby affirms with said adoption of this Resolution, as follows:

Section 1. The San Pablo City Council strongly urges the Federal government under the leadership of the Trump Administration to demonstrate a commitment to the American economy and the ideals of the nation by restoring DACA immediately.

Section 2. We strongly urge Congress to promptly pass legislation that makes permanent the benefits and protections afforded by DACA.

Section 3. San Pablo has a remarkable ability to join together to meet the great challenges that confront our people, and to come to the aid of those in need; accordingly, we call upon the residents, individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations in San Pablo and West County region to join us and urge the Federal government under the leadership of the Trump Administration and California's Congressional delegation to restore immediately, and make permanent, the DACA protections for the benefit of San Pablo's young people, who contribute so much to the local community.

Section 4. We hereby urge further immediate action by Congress and the President to pass legislation that will afford DACA recipients a path to permanent United States citizenship to reflect that these young people are by all measures young Americans but are unable to obtain documentation of that status through no improper action on their part, and we ask California's Congressional delegation to lead with future legislation and new immigration policy on those issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing recitations are true and correct, and are included herein by reference as findings.

ADOPTED this 16th day of October 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Cruz, Morris, Calloway and Valdez
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Kinney
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None

ATTEST:	APPROVED:
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/s/ Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado
Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, City Clerk

/s/ Cecilia Valdez
Cecilia Valdez, Mayor