

**RESOLUTION NO. 36-13 (CM)****A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND URGE ACTION FROM THE 113<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Watsonville is calling on the 113<sup>th</sup> United States Congress to take real action on immigration reform in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government's inability to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and political strains here and in communities across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our City of Watsonville values; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Watsonville's identity is defined by its promise of equality, esteem for diversity and commitment to innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Watsonville, the Pájaro Valley, the State of California, and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe in the human dignity of all City of Watsonville residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognize the importance of immigrants' many contributions to the social, cultural and economic fabric of Watsonville; and

**WHEREAS**, we call on the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to stop the unnecessary deportation of residents in our community who are law abiding and live in peace with their neighbors. Keeping families together not only is the right thing to do, but is also good for the economy because families provide a base of support that increases worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration is a federal responsibility, and a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen the City of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley, the State of California and the nation's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dream Act frees aspiring young citizens to make an even greater contribution to our communities and should be offered a clear path to citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive immigration reform must provide a mechanism for aspiring citizens who have grown up in this country to become U.S. citizens and be able to fully contribute to our joint future; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that builds the strength and unity of working people, keeps families together, and guarantees the same rights, obligations, and basic fairness for all workers, no matter where they come from; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive immigration reform must include a pathway to citizenship without an unnecessary lengthy wait for all aspiring citizens who live in the United States if they meet reasonable and legal requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation's labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of citizens and immigrant workers; and

**WHEREAS**, any new worker visa program must provide for strict compliance with U.S. labor standards and wage and hour standards; the right to organize; portability of

visas so that workers can change jobs; and the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

**WHEREAS**, comprehensive immigration reform enforcement provisions must promote strict adherence to the right guaranteed by our nations Constitution including due process, civil and human rights and freedom of religion; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council supports a comprehensive immigration reform bill that keeps families together, upholds our values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and provides a long-term solution to the broken immigration system; and

**WHEREAS**, our elected officials must create an immigration process that strengthens our nation's economy and lets aspiring citizens continue their contributions to our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That this City Council urges the United States 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses full legalization with a path to citizenship and future immigration of families and workers.

2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Boehner, U.S. Speaker of the House, Harry Reid, Majority Leader of US. Senate, Luis Alejo, California State Assembly Member, Bill Monning, California State Senator, and Governor Brown of the State of California.

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The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, by Member Montesino, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Dodge, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Bilicich, Cervantez, Coffman-Gomez, Dodge, Hernandez, Montesino, Hurst**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**



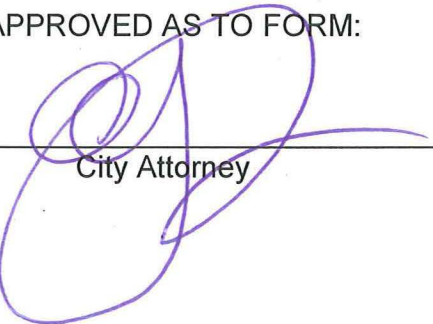
Lowell Hurst, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney