

**RESOLUTION NO. 59-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND PLACING  
DRIVER'S LICENSE CHECKPOINTS AS A LOW PRIORITY FOR THE RICHMOND POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

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WHEREAS, approximately one fourth of the residents of the City of Richmond are foreign born residents who contribute in many ways to the advancement of commercial, cultural, civic life, and to the overall prosperity of our City; and

WHEREAS, many of the foreign born residents have come to reside in Richmond fleeing from wars and starvation in their countries of origin in what could be considered the result of forced mass migrations, rather than of individual choices or preferences; and

WHEREAS, often U.S. foreign, economic and military policies and interventions are at the source of many of these forced migrations for survival; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants annually pay an estimated \$7 billion more than they take out into Social Security, and \$1.5 billion more into Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences found that tax payments generated by immigrants outweighed any costs associated with services used by immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council supports California State Senate Bill 60 that would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue driver licenses to qualified drivers regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama was elected only a few months ago on a platform that included a comprehensive immigration reform with a path to legalization for millions of undocumented workers and their families who escaped to the US to avoid death and hunger; and

WHEREAS, these Richmond residents are denied licenses to drive based on their immigration status and they, and their families, are left to depend on our very insufficient public transportation system to go to work, school, church, medical appointments, markets and other needed destinations; and

WHEREAS, these Richmond residents are anxious to comply with all rules and regulations that our society imposes on those working and living in it, but find it practically impossible to live and work in our City without occasional driving; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND in a spirit of both responsibility and compassion:

1. Encourages, for health and environmental benefits, all residents of Richmond to drive less, the least possible; to walk and bike more, and to share rides and to use all available public transportation as much as possible; and
2. Reminds all residents of this city that drivers must be educated, licensed and insured drivers, and this continues to be the expectation for all drivers in our city roads and streets; and
3. Requests the Richmond Police Department to place in a very low priority the utilization in our city of driver license checkpoints until President Obama has a chance to bring forward his comprehensive immigration reform policies.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of The City of Richmond, California, at a regular meeting thereof held June 16, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Ritterman, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin.

NOES: Councilmember Bates.

ABSTENTIONS: Councilmembers Butt and Rogers.

ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

GAYLE McLAUGHLIN  
Mayor

RANDY RIDDLE  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        }:ss  
City of Richmond               }