

RESOLUTON NO. 35-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING HR 4437
AND SUPPORTING A FAIR, JUST AND HUMANE IMMIGRATION
LEGISLATION THAT RECOGNIZES ALL IMMIGRANTS**

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond welcomes and values all of its residents and wishes them to live and work free from discrimination, hostility, abuse, violence and fear;

WHEREAS, one fourth of the residents of Richmond are persons who were born in foreign countries and who have come to the U.S. in search of better lives for themselves and their families;

WHEREAS, HR 4437, the bill passed by the United States House of Representatives on December 16, 2005 is one of the most egregious, anti-immigrant bills in this country's history;

WHEREAS, HR 4437 proposes, among other things, to make undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. into aggravated felons and to criminalize U.S. citizens and legal residents who have routine contact with undocumented immigrants;

WHEREAS, HR 4437 is a punitive and unworkable measure that increases enforcement but does not solve current immigration issues in the United States;

WHEREAS, while many policy makers understand the need for broad immigration reform, a comprehensive reform bill should be one that is fair, just and humane, and recognizes all immigrants for their contributions to our economic and social life;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive immigration reform bill should provide undocumented workers and students a path toward permanent residency;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive immigration reform bill should also provide a system that addresses the backlog of visas to reunite families currently separated, as well as prevent the criminalization of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council opposes HR 4437, a punitive and unworkable measure that does not solve the current immigration issues in the United States and risks the criminalization of the community and faith-based organizations, as well as the City of Richmond employees, librarians, first responders and other service providers, that provide assistance and services to undocumented persons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council calls for a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is compassionate, fair, just and humane, and recognizes all immigrants for their contributions to our economic and social life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council directs the Clerk of the Richmond City Council to send copies of this resolution to Federal representatives: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congressman George Miller.

I certify that the following resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond, California, at regular meeting held on April 18, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Griffin, Marquez, McLaughlin, Rogers, Thurmond, Viramontes, and Mayor Anderson
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Councilmember Butt
ABSENT:	None

DIANE HOLMES
Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

APPROVED:

IRMA L. ANDERSON
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN EASTMAN
City Attorney

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

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 35-06, finally passed and adopted by the Council of the city of Richmond at regular meeting held on April 18, 2006, and published in accordance with law.