

**RESOLUTION NO. XX.07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT IS FAIR, JUST AND HUMANE**

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond welcomes and values all of its residents and supports them to live and work free from discrimination, hostility, abuse, violence, exploitation and fear of local, state and federal law enforcement; and

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; and

WHEREAS; National experts and policy makers agree our federal immigration policy is broken, inconsistent and in need of reform; and

WHEREAS; Most economists agree that immigrants and undocumented workers are good for the US economy and studies show that immigrants contribute \$25-30 billion more in taxes than they receive in services; and

WHEREAS; A crackdown on illegal immigration in 2004 caused a shortage of workers needed to bring in the agricultural crop in the Western United States which caused a \$1 billion dollar loss for the industry; and

WHEREAS, The City of Richmond in resolution 35-06 of April 18, 2006 called for a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair, just and humane; that recognizes all immigrants for their contributions to our economic and social life; and

WHEREAS The City of Richmond passed Ordinance 29-90 to affirms its desire to foster an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between the Richmond Police Department and all residents of the city of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has acknowledged through press reports that its officers identify themselves as “police”, which technically correct misleads the residents of Richmond, by suggesting they are Richmond Police Department officers investigating local crimes and undermines the trust built by the Richmond Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the community and church leaders have received also numerous complaints of people arrested at places of work and in public places, for which no warrants existed, creating a climate of fear among immigrant families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement be called upon to issue a moratorium on raids until the US Congress comes to an agreement on comprehensive immigration reform so that the debate can be carried out in good faith, rather than against a backdrop of fear, repression and intimidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond reaffirms the terms of ordinance No. 20-90 ordering all officers and employees of this City not to inform, assist or cooperate with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) formerly known as Immigration and Naturalization Service, without the specific authorization of the Richmond City Manager or the Chief of Police; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond calls for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers conducting any future official business in Richmond to clearly and specifically identify themselves as federal immigration officers and to proactively and clearly state that they are not officers of the Richmond Police Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Richmond reaffirms its support for comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair, just and humane; that recognizes all immigrants for their contributions to our economic and social life; that provides a system that addresses the backlog of visas to reunite families currently separated; that provides undocumented workers and students with a path toward permanent residency; and prevents the criminalization of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Richmond City Council directs the Clerk of the Richmond City Council to send copies of this resolution to Michael Chertoff, Secretary for Homeland Security, and to Federal representatives including Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Congressman George Miller.