

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND CLEAR IDENTIFICATION STANDARDS IN FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE.

WHEREAS the Preamble to the Riverside City Charter states: “We, the people of the City of Riverside believe in promoting an inclusive community with shared economic, environmental and cultural prosperity, equal civil and political rights, social harmony and cohesion, and opportunities for all”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside’s Inclusive Community Statement reads; A city of considerable racial, ethnic, religious, and other types of diversity, Riverside has etched a complex history. That history has included both significant efforts to achieve greater justice, equality, and understanding, as well as unfortunate periods and events that have demonstrated the need for increased commitment, ideas, and action to work toward these goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside (“City”) has a longstanding commitment in advocating compassion, peace, social harmony, safety, and fostering a mutual respect and understanding for all people, regardless of religion, race or nationality; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to a diverse population that include immigrants, first-generation Americans, foreign-born residents, refugees, and individuals of various immigration statuses who collectively and individually contribute to the City’s values of diversity, economic viability, and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2023 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, over 54% of the City’s population identifies as Latino, Latinx, or Hispanic, one of the highest percentages in the Inland Empire, and 22.5% of the City’s population is foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, immigrants in the City contribute significantly to the City’s economy, workforce, and culture, holding nearly 28% of jobs across key sectors including agriculture, logistics, healthcare, and education; and

1 WHEREAS, local policies that foster trust between immigrant communities and city services  
2 enhance public safety, reduce fear, and promote access to health care, education, emergency  
3 assistance, open spaces, community spaces, recreational, city services; and

4 WHEREAS, the City values public trust, accountability, and open communication between all  
5 law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve; and

6 WHEREAS, recent federal immigration enforcement operations in various Wards have  
7 raised concerns among community members when conducted by California Border Patrol (CBP) and  
8 Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents using unmarked vehicles, plainclothes attire, often  
9 with their faces covered or masked, and without clearly visible identification; and

10 WHEREAS, numerous reports and video evidence show that even U.S. citizens and  
11 immigrants with lawful status have been mistakenly detained, questioned, or targeted, exacerbating  
12 distrust and public safety risks; and

13 WHEREAS, confusion regarding the identity and authority of enforcement personnel can  
14 create unnecessary fear and trauma, reduce public trust in law enforcement, reduce safety for the  
15 public and local law enforcement, potentially hinder lawful oversight, and raise concerns about the  
16 risk of non-law enforcement individuals engaging in or being perceived as engaging in unauthorized  
17 enforcement or vigilantism; and

18 WHEREAS, the California Values Act (SB 54), outlines limits on the use of local resources  
19 in federal immigration enforcement while allowing cities to take proactive measures to  
20 ensure transparency and protect civil rights; and

21 WHEREAS, the City affirms its responsibility to document and verify federal enforcement  
22 activity occurring within its jurisdiction and, where legally appropriate, take proactive steps to  
23 safeguard against potential overreach or actions that may compromise the civil rights of residents.

24 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside,  
25 California, as follows:

26 Section 1. Affirmation of Commitment to All Riverside Residents: the City reaffirms its  
27 commitment to ensuring that all residents—regardless of immigration status—can access city services,  
participate in civic life, and feel safe in their communities without fear of discrimination.

1        Section 2. Affirmation of Transparency and Public Safety: the City affirms that clear  
2 identification of immigration enforcement personnel, especially during sensitive enforcement  
3 operations, is essential to maintaining public trust and safety and condemns the use of unmarked  
4 vehicles, masked or plainclothes agents, and other nontransparent tactics.

5        Section 3. Continued Implementation of SB54: the City reaffirms its commitment to  
6 the implementation of the California Values Act (SB54) as required by law and embraces the spirit  
7 undergirding the law that there needs to be a bright line between local law enforcement and federal  
8 immigration enforcement.

9        Section 4. Encouragement of Coordination and Identification: the City urges all federal  
10 immigration enforcement personnel operating within Riverside limits to use clearly marked vehicles,  
11 wear visible agency identification, and follow transparent protocols that allow residents and local  
12 officials to verify their authority.

13        Section 5. Local Monitoring Within Legal Boundaries: the City calls on the Riverside Police  
14 Department to report and advise of any suspected federal enforcement activity in the City and, when  
15 legally permissible, confirm the identity of immigration enforcement personnel conducting  
16 enforcement operations within the City, and to document such interactions by confirming their full  
17 name, badge number, and agency.

18        Section 6. Data Privacy: the City will ensure to not disclose any information regarding an  
19 individual's immigration status on any City databases or registries. Furthermore, the City affirms to  
20 not share any information obtained through the City's license plate reader systems and cameras with  
21 a federal agency, unless a legal warrant is provided regarding a specific criminal case or investigation.

22        Section 7. Safeguarding Civil Rights through Documentation: The City directs the City  
23 Manager's office and City Attorney's office to the best of their ability to actively document and report  
24 any federal immigration enforcement activity that raises concerns about civil rights violations, racial  
25 profiling, excessive use of force or lack of transparency. All such incidents should be referred to the  
26 respective appropriate oversight bodies, legal authorities, or civil rights organizations for review and  
27 action. In carrying out this work, the City will collaborate with trusted and reputable community-based

1 partners to support comprehensive documentation, incorporate community feedback, and ensure  
2 meaningful follow-up on all reported incidents.

3 Section 8. Commitment of Core Values for all Residents: the City reaffirms its commitment  
4 to due process, equal protection, and the rights of all individuals within its jurisdiction. Riverside will  
5 continue to uphold its values as a safe, inclusive, and law-abiding community where government  
6 transparency and public safety remain paramount.

7 Section 9. Public Awareness and Education Campaign: the City Council directs the City  
8 Manager to work with city staff to roll out a public education campaign that provides access to Know  
9 Your Rights cards/information and links to helpful organizations and services available to the general  
10 public on the city website, social media pages, and community centers and directs the City Manager  
11 to explore and return to City Council in October 2025, with possible other avenues to educate residents  
12 such as hosting workshops, inserts in the Riverside Public utility bills, and printed materials, etc.

13 Section 10. Exploration of Legal and Legislative Remedies: The City directs the City Attorney  
14 and City Manager to actively monitor federal enforcement activities and explore available legal or  
15 legislative avenues to respond and challenge any practices that undermine the City's values or violate  
16 the rights of its residents as provided by local, state and federal law as well as the U.S. Constitution.

17 Section 11. Exploration of Legal Aid Funding: The City Council directs staff to explore  
18 establishing a Legal Justice fund in partnership with trusted and reputable non-profit immigrants'  
19 rights groups, civil rights, and or legal aid organizations. The Council may consider matching to  
20 \$50,000 if the agreed upon partner organization(s) can raise \$50,000 to match the contribution, for a  
21 total of \$100,000 allocated to serve Riverside residents and families seeking legal aid and support.

1 The City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution, and it shall  
2 become effective immediately upon its approval.

3 ADOPTED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

4  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON  
Mayor of the City of Riverside

7 Attest:

8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 DONESIA GAUSE  
City Clerk of the City of Riverside

10 //

11 //

12  
13 I, Donesia Gause, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the  
14 foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City of  
15 Riverside, at its meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by the following vote,  
16 to wit:

17 Ayes:

18 Noes:

19 Absent:

20 Abstain:

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the  
22 City of Riverside, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

23  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 DONESIA GAUSE  
City Clerk of the City of Riverside