

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION No 2014-82**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Mayor Javier Gonzales

6 Councilor Patti Bushee

7 Councilor Signe Lindell

8 Councilor Peter Ives

9
10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **DECLARING THE CITY OF SANTA FE'S CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT**
12 **ISSUES IN SANTA FE, THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND THROUGHOUT THE**
13 **UNITED STATES.**

14
15 **WHEREAS**, over the past 400 years, Santa Fe has been a home for many immigrants who
16 came to this continent seeking a better way of life; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe is a welcoming city with a sizeable Central-American
18 immigrant population and a history of providing sanctuary for immigrants; and

19 **WHEREAS**, through the adoption of Resolution No. 1985-129, the then Governing Body
20 declared that Santa Fe is a city of refuge for refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala; and

21 **WHEREAS**, through the adoption of Resolution No. 1999-6, the then Governing Body
22 declared a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of a person's national origin and declared that the
23 City of Santa Fe will be a community where all persons will be treated equally, with respect and
24 dignity, regardless of immigration status; and

25 **WHEREAS**, since 2012, an increasing number of unaccompanied immigrant minors have

1 been making the long, arduous journey to the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in recent months, there has been an influx of immigrant women and children
3 from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras who are housed at a U. S. Facility in Artesia, New
4 Mexico; and

5 **WHEREAS**, first-hand accounts by attorneys and human rights advocates at the Artesia
6 makeshift detention center reveal substandard conditions for women and children, inadequate and
7 unsustainable legal services for those who may qualify for lawful status, lack of educational, medical
8 and mental health services for incarcerated families, exorbitant bonds, and due process violations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, several national civil rights organizations recently filed a lawsuit against the
10 government alleging the violation of civil rights and due process for the incarcerated women and
11 children in Artesia; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the expansion of family detention centers was halted in 2009 by the Obama
13 administration after public opposition and lawsuits challenging the inhumane conditions at these
14 centers, and the rapid expansion of family detention in the last three months is an alarming reversal of
15 this policy; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2013 called on all
17 countries to completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status; and

18 **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that keeping children in prison-like conditions for any
19 amount of time is damaging to their educational and psychological development and health; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe Immigration Committee has expressed concerns regarding
21 the lack of efforts for assistance regarding the immigrant women and children in the facility; and

22 **WHEREAS**, news accounts report deplorable living conditions, expeditious deportations
23 even after demonstrating credible fear of returning to their country and slow due process proceedings;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, on July 8, 2014, President Obama asked Congress for \$3.7 billion for fiscal

1 year 2014 to comprehensively address the urgent humanitarian situation on both sides of the
2 southwest border of the United States which includes addressing the situation in Artesia, New
3 Mexico; and

4 **WHEREAS**, funds would support a sustained border security, additional immigration judge
5 teams, immigration prosecutors and immigration litigation attorneys to ensure cases are processed
6 fairly and quickly; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body does not support the incarceration and expedited
8 deportation of women and children who are currently housed in Artesia, however, the Governing
9 Body supports humanitarian efforts on behalf of the immigrant women and children who are currently
10 housed at the Artesia facility.

11 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
12 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body hereby declares its continuous support for immigrant
13 issues in Santa Fe, the state of New Mexico and throughout the United States.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body calls on the federal government to
15 immediately stop the expansion of family detention centers and the prolonged detention and
16 expedited deportation of refugees and immigrants arriving from Central America.

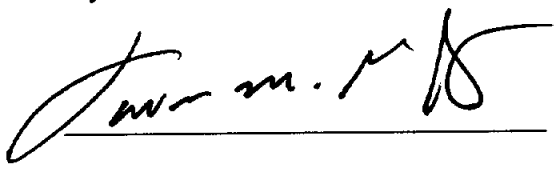
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body calls on the City's Congressional
18 Delegation to support the 3.7 billion dollar request by President Obama to address the urgent
19 humanitarian situation on both sides of the southwest border of the United States which includes
20 support for the immigrant women and children who are currently housed at the Artesia facility.

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body calls on the federal government to
22 close the Artesia detention facility, reverse the "detain and deport" policy, and find cost-effective and
23 humane alternatives to detention for the women and children incarcerated there.

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this
25 resolution to the City of Santa Fe's Congressional Delegation.

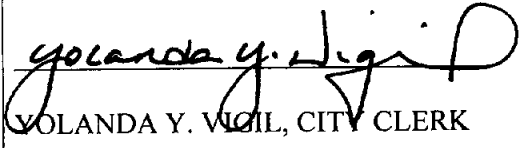
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PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8th day of October, 2014.



JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YOLANDA Y. WOIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



KELLEY A. BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY