



May 4, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Sacramento City Council
City Hall Council Chamber
915 I Street, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sacramento City Council:

The Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) commends the Sacramento City Council for considering the legislative platform and programmatic support for immigrants and refugees in the City of Sacramento. The American Immigration Lawyers Association is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. Member attorneys represent tens of thousands of families, U.S. businesses, foreign students, researchers, entertainers and asylum seekers. AILA's Northern California Chapter, which encompasses the majority of Northern California counties, currently has over 900 members with more than 60 members practicing in the City of Sacramento.

AILA supports the City Council passing 1) the drafted resolution reaffirming the City of Sacramento's status as a City of Sanctuary, 2) a motion adopting an immigration platform that establishes the policy and legislative agenda for the City on immigration matters, and 3) a resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$300,000 for a grant to provide urgent legal and support services to Sacramento families facing the immediate threat of separation due to deportation, and authorizing the City Manager or City Manager's designee to negotiate and execute a contract of said grant.

In authorizing the appropriation of funds for a grant to provide urgent legal and support services to Sacramento families facing the immediate threat of separation due to deportation, AILA is particularly concerned of legal services most lacking in the Sacramento area including an attorney coordinator who can activate a legal network when ICE detention begins, as well as immigrants facing proceedings in immigration court without legal representation. AILA urges the Council to consider attorney coordination and removal defense a priority for these funds.

Sincerely,

Olivia Lee, Chair
chair@ailanorcal.com
Northern California Chapter
American Immigration Lawyers Association

CC: Arturo Sanchez (asanchez@cityofsacramento.org)