

RESOLUTION NO. 5407, SERIES 1986

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF DAVIS FOR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SANCTUARY TO REFUGEES FLEEING PERSECUTION IN EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA

WHEREAS, the citizens of Davis are concerned about violations of human rights throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, in the last six years, over 10,000 Guatemalan civilians and over 50,000 Salvadoran civilians have been killed in their homelands; and over 500,000 Guatemalans and over 500,000 Salvadorans have fled from violence and gross human rights violations, and

WHEREAS, the United State Congress, in the Refugee Act of 1980, adopted the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines a political refugee as "any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or a political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country," and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees has recognized that persons fleeing El Salvador and Guatemala are bona fide political refugees, yet fewer than two percent are being granted that status by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, and

WHEREAS, the significant risk of persecution and death for deported Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, documented by numerous church and international human rights agencies, make it inhumane to enforce their return during this period of civil war, and

WHEREAS, over 200 churches and synagogues and other groups across the nation have elected to provide sanctuary openly and publicly to Central American refugees, believing this humanitarian work to be in accord with the spirit and letter of international and United States law, and

WHEREAS, within the City of Davis we have both refugees and sanctuary providers for whom the fear of deportation and the threat of arrest have an increasing immediacy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Davis declare itself a CITY OF SANCTUARY for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, until they can safely return to their homelands or until they are granted federally recognized residency status, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no agency or employee of the City of Davis shall officially assist with investigations or arrest procedures relating to alleged violations of immigration law by refugees from El Salvador or Guatemala or by those offering them sanctuary, unless required to do so by statute, ordinance, federal regulation or court decision; nor will any City agency or employee refuse essential public services to the refugees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Davis commend the Davis Religious Community for Sanctuary and all those Davis citizens who have supported its work on behalf of Central American refugees, providing housing, transportation, food, clothing, medical aid, legal assistance and friendship to these refugees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk:

1. Communicate this Resolution to all City agencies, to the Administration and Student Government of the University of California at Davis, to the California Delegation to the U.S. Congress, to the local and national directors of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and to President Ronald Reagan, and
2. Communicate to the California Delegation to the U.S. Congress our request that the Delegation investigate the application of the Refugee Act of 1980 to the situation of Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Davis this 5th day of March, 1986, by the following votes:

AYES: Tomasi, Nichols-Poulos, Rosenberg, Evans.

NOES: Adler

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:


ROGER A. STOREY
City Clerk


ANN M. EVANS
Mayor