



# TOWN OF DOVER

## MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

### RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF DOVER DESIGNATING THE TOWN OF DOVER AS A FAIR AND WELCOMING TOWN

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Dover values its ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity. Our diversity is a source of our municipality's strength and the Town of Dover is committed to ensuring that all our residents can live and pursue their livelihoods in peace and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town's residents, like many Americans, are deeply concerned that national politics will impact their lives and families, whether they will be forced to leave this country, and whether rights and protections afforded to them will suddenly be taken away; and

**WHEREAS**, in the State of New Jersey, local enforcement of immigration law is only authorized in the most narrow of circumstances and only in accordance with NJ Attorney General guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to create a community where immigrants are comfortable reporting crimes, acting as witnesses in criminal investigations and prosecutions, and providing intelligence to law enforcement. The cooperation of the Town's immigrant community is essential to prevent and solve crimes and maintain public order, safety and security in the entire Town. Community policing depends on trust with every segment of the community and facilitating deportations will harm our efforts at community policing; and

**WHEREAS**, a growing number of municipalities around the country are standing up to threats against privacy and liberties by taking meaningful steps to ensure that communities are safe, and that all residents' rights are respected so that their municipality may continue to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall continue to promote policies that protect all Town residents' privacy and rights; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen support the continuation of the currently existing policy that local police and government agents will not enforce federal immigration law nor help facilitate ICE deportations, except where legally required to do so; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are committed to working on strong anti-discrimination policies to protect vulnerable communities. Ensuring that all are treated fairly and without discrimination or profiling based on actual or perceived national origin, immigration status, race, ethnicity, language proficiency, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, housing status, financial status, marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal history, or status as a veteran is a priority for our community. The Town shall continue to prohibit its agents and employees from conditioning services on immigration status, except where required under applicable federal or state law; from coercing individuals or threatening to report them or their family members to ICE or take other immigration-related action against them or their family members; and that where presentation of a state driver's license is accepted as adequate evidence of identity, presentation of a photo identity document issued by the person's nation of origin, such as a driver's license, passport, or consulate-issued document, shall be accepted and shall not subject the person to a higher level of scrutiny or different treatment. Town employees shall continue not to ask any individual or request information from any individual about their citizenship or immigration status except where required by state or federal law or regulation or directive or court order;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen is committed to work on strong privacy protections limiting the extent to which Town agents and employees are permitted to maintain and share confidential personal information, including personal contact information, information about national origin, race, ethnicity, language proficiency, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, housing status, financial status, marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal history, release date from incarceration or confinement in a jail, or status as a veteran; except where otherwise required by state or federal law or regulation or directive or court order; however, the Town shall comply

with 8 U.S.C. 1373 and 8 U.S.C. 1644, in that no such policy or act shall limit the extent to which the Town shall maintain, request, send, receive, or exchange information regarding an individual's citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, with another Federal, State, or local government entity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen reaffirm the Town's commitment to enforce worker protections, such as Earned Sick Days and living wage laws, regardless of immigration status;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen reaffirm its commitment to its successful Municipal ID program, available to all Town residents and recognized by all Town agencies and departments, with strong privacy and data security protections. Municipal IDs provide government-issued photo ID to all residents, without regard to immigration status or criminal record. Municipal IDs help the most vulnerable communities, including individuals returning from incarceration, immigrants, transgender individuals, the homeless and the disabled and elderly -- populations that face barriers to city services because they often cannot access government-issued ID;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen encourage the adoption of clear and transparent protocols for the certification of U-Visas for undocumented immigrant community members who have been victims of a serious crime and have cooperated in the investigation of the crime;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are committed to opposing any government registry based on religion or national origin;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will continue to support vital resources for immigrant communities, including, but not limited to citizenship services and English classes. Town agencies that provide direct services should ensure meaningful access to such services by taking reasonable steps to develop and implement agency-specific language assistance plans regarding Limited English Proficient residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are committed to maintaining community stakeholder engagement around implementation of policies that preserve and protect our diverse and inclusive community, and will serve as a resource for immigrant community members with questions, comments, or concerns about safety or local government's role in defending vulnerable communities.

ADOPTED:

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Margaret J. Verga, Municipal Clerk

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James P. Dodd, Mayor

ADOPTED: 07/11/2017