

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-_____

RESOLUTION OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ASKING THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA TO SEEK RECERTIFICATION AS A “WELCOMING CITY.”

WHEREAS, when the City Council voted to reestablish the Human Relations Commission in 2017, the City Council stated that the “first duty of the Commission shall be to assist the City, by completing all required steps, to become a Certified Welcoming City.”; and

WHEREAS, an application for Welcoming City certification was submitted in the fall of 2018. The city received Welcoming City certification in November 2019. The certification covered the period of November 2019 to December 2022; and

WHEREAS, to obtain Welcoming City certification, a city must demonstrate commitment and effective implementation of programs and partnerships that welcome and support immigrant communities. The certification requires demonstrated actions in the following areas: government leadership, equitable access, civic engagement, connected communities, educational partnerships, economic development, and safe communities; and

WHEREAS, Chula Vista was the first city in the State of California to earn designation as a Certified Welcoming City; and

WHEREAS, the city of Chula Vista actively promoted its Welcoming City status to the public; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the three-year certification period, City Manager, Maria Kachadoorian, in consultation with the previous Mayor, Mary Casillas Salas, decided not to pursue Welcoming City recertification. The stated reasons for not seeking recertification are because of “staff priorities to launch development of the Justice, Equity and Inclusion Program (JEDI) and the effort to create the City’s Privacy Protection and Technology Transparency Policy.” The plan is to incorporate ongoing immigrant inclusion efforts into the JEDI program; and

WHEREAS, the decision not to seek recertification was made without the input of the City Council, Human Relations Commission or the public; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the implementation of JEDI will commence sometime between September 2023 and February 2024; and

WHEREAS, seeking and obtaining recertification will ensure Welcoming City status, with its policies and requirements, while the JEDI program is properly developed and fully implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2023, the City Council voted unanimously to create an ad hoc committee composed of Deputy Mayor Jose Preciado and Councilmember Andrea Cardenas to analyze the Welcoming City program and gather community feedback about whether Chula Vista should seek recertification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Human Relations Commission of the City of Chula Vista, requests that the City of Chula Vista seek recertification of the Welcoming City designation and maintain that designation at least until the JEDI program is fully implemented.

Petrina Branch, Chair
Human Relations Commission