

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO UPHOLD THE CIVIL RIGHTS,
DIGNITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR IMMIGRANT POPULATION AND
ALL CITY OF PETALUMA RESIDENTS**

The City Council of the City of Petaluma hereby finds and declares as follows:

WHEREAS, Petaluma is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, all Petaluma immigrant residents, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented residents, refugees, or residents with any other immigration status, are valued and integral members of our social, cultural, and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, many children live in homes with mixed immigration status, including at least one undocumented parent – and stabilizing and improving the situation of their parents is an investment in our long-term future.

WHEREAS, many immigrants in Petaluma have worked the front lines during the global pandemic and wildfires of recent years and are considered essential workers; and deserve to work with dignity and free from exploitation; and

WHEREAS, many immigrants have created deep ties in Petaluma, which they have cultivated for themselves, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma assures its vulnerable communities that the City supports them, will do all it can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and will not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, bullying, or harassment; and

WHEREAS, the Petaluma City Council wishes to declare that the City of Petaluma is a safe place for everyone, including, but not limited to, immigrants from all countries, people of color, people of all religions, gender identity, sexual orientation, people with disabilities and all vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, it is the City Council's desire to ensure that its immigrant residents participate in civic life and daily activities without fear of being arrested or detained by, or reported to federal immigration authorities based solely on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the national rhetoric regarding immigration during and since the 2024 National Presidential Election has resulted in concerns and uncertainty among many, including but not limited to immigrants, vulnerable residents, and families in our community, across our State, and across our nation; and

WHEREAS, the City endeavors to safeguard public health and safety, which relies on trust and

cooperation between all residents and local law enforcement; and to strengthen communities and foster trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement, the City has enacted various laws and policies; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration authorities often seek to enlist local law enforcement's voluntary cooperation and assistance in enforcing immigration laws, which may include, for instance, continuing to detain persons based on non-mandatory civil immigration detainers or cooperating and assisting with requests to notify federal immigration authorities that/when a person will be released from local custody, and such actions often shift the financial burden of civil immigration enforcement onto local agencies; and

WHEREAS, when local law enforcement agencies voluntarily assist federal immigration authorities, such assistance can contribute to the separation of families, community distrust of local government, fear of accessing necessary government services by immigrant communities, and reluctance to share vital information and cooperate with local authorities; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of detained immigrants are working people and the primary breadwinners of their families, and many immigrants have lost employment and the ability to provide for their families while detained or deported; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted the Resolution to Uphold the Civil Rights, Dignity, Health and Safety of Our Immigrant Population and All Sonoma County Residents;

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2026, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance to safeguard civil rights of immigrants;

WHEREAS, the statewide TRUST Act (AB 4) California Trust Act limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement can detain individuals on behalf of federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the statewide TRUTH Act (AB 2792) California TRUTH Act ensures transparency and oversight regarding local law enforcement's communication with federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the statewide VALUES Act (SB 54) California Values Act limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement may use funds or personnel to support immigration enforcement and authorizes localities in California to establish further restrictions in local policies. It also prevents police and sheriff's deputies from asking about an individual's immigration status, from sharing a person's sensitive personal information with immigration authorities, unless otherwise required or permitted by law, or from arresting anyone only for having a deportation removal order or for most other immigration violations; and

WHEREAS, the California Education Code § 234.7 prohibits schools from adopting policies or

practices and discriminate against or hinder access to school services based on immigration status, and restricts schools from collecting or sharing information about immigration status; and

WHEREAS, these laws have been enacted statewide as a declaration that California recognizes and values the contributions of immigrants in our communities. And while we acknowledge the federal government’s extensive legislation related to immigration regulation and enforcement, through these state laws, we decline to participate in federal efforts to enforce such federal laws in our communities; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-032 N.C.S., titled “Resolution in Support of the Protection of the Human, Constitutional, and Other Rights of Community Members of the City of Petaluma”; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-040 N.C.S., titled “Resolution in Support of Solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander Communities and Denouncing Anti-Asian Racism, Discrimination, Intimidation, Threats and Violence”; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-163 N.C.S., titled “Resolution Supporting Human Rights of All Petalumans and Condemning Hate Speech, Racism, and Acts of Extremism”; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2025, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2025-019 N.C.S., titled “Resolution of the City Council of the City of Petaluma Reaffirming the City’s Commitment to Immigrants, Inclusivity, and Compliance With California Law, Including Senate Bill 54”; and

WHEREAS, in a letter to the community in November 2024, the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association reaffirmed local police and sheriff’s commitment to the above-mentioned state laws, and acknowledged that “participating in federal immigration enforcement undermines the trust and cooperation necessary for effective policing” in our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF PETALUMA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

“Agency” means every City department, agency, division, commission, council, committee, board, other body, or person that is authorized to provide services to the residents of City of Petaluma.

“Agent” means any person employed by or acting on behalf of an agency.

“Citizenship or immigration status” means all matters regarding questions of citizenship of the United States or any other country, including place of birth, and authority to reside in or

otherwise be present in the United States.

“Immigration enforcement” includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person’s presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States (as defined in California Government Code §7284.4(f)).

“Sensitive personal information” includes a person’s race or ethnicity, home or work address, social security numbers or individual tax identification numbers, employment status, a person’s status as a recipient of public assistance or as a crime victim, a person’s sexual orientation, contact information, social media identifiers, place of birth, disability, credit score, or English language ability.

Section 2. Confidentiality. In order for all residents to feel safe while interacting with local government – whether to access benefits, report a crime, or file a legal document – the City Council directs all department agents to closely protect the sensitive personal information of residents, whether that information is collected at birth, marriage, or death, through the application for benefits for health, housing, or human services, or other situations in which sensitive information is stored.

- (A) No agent or agency shall request, maintain, or disclose sensitive personal information, unless such disclosure has been authorized in writing by the individual whom such information pertains, or if such individual is a minor or is otherwise not legally competent, by such individual’s parent or guardian. Such information shall only be requested or maintained by the City as strictly necessary to perform the agency’s designated services. Notwithstanding this provision, department agents may request, maintain, or share sensitive personal information only if required by state or federal statute, court order or judicial warrant or subpoena.

Section 3: Use of City Resources. All City departments, agencies, commissions, officers, agents, representatives, and employees are prohibited from using City resources, property, personnel, time, labor, or funds to:

- (A) Inquire into or collect information about an individual’s citizenship, place of birth, or immigration status in relation to an application, questionnaire, or interview form in relation to City of Petaluma benefits, opportunities, or services unless required by law in order to provide a city service or carry out a function of City government or relevant to potential or actual litigation or an administrative proceeding in which the City is or may be a party; or
- (B) Assist or cooperate with any and all immigration enforcement operations or requests by federal immigration authorities or entities contracted to act on behalf of federal immigration authorities, unless pursuant to a court order or otherwise required by federal or state statute or regulation; or
- (C) Provide access to or use non-public City property, including but not limited to, stations, conference rooms, and databases to federal immigration authorities, unless pursuant to a judicial warrant or otherwise required by federal or state statute, regulation, or court order; or

- (D) Provide documents, records, or other evidence in response to an administrative subpoena from federal immigration authorities until it has been reviewed and vetted by the City's Attorney's Office, who shall also ensure that any individuals whose records have been requested are informed of the existence and contents of the subpoena request; or
- (E) The prohibition on using City resources expressly prohibits City departments, agencies, commissions, officers, agents, representatives, employees, and volunteers from allowing Immigration Authorities access to any city property without a judicial warrant; or
- (F) The prohibition on using City resources expressly prohibits City departments, agencies, commissions, officers, agents, representatives, employees, and volunteers from using funds or personnel to assist in traffic enforcement for the purpose of aiding immigration enforcement or allowing Immigration Authorities access to city property for purposes of staging or establishing an operational base for a federal immigration enforcement action.

All City agencies shall collaborate to identify City-owned and controlled property that is or could be used in the future as a staging area, processing location or operations based for the purpose of immigration enforcement. Upon identification, City agencies shall ensure that all such properties have a clear signage stating: "This property is owned and controlled by the City of Petaluma. It may not be used for immigration enforcement as staging area, processing location, or operation base." Additionally, wherever appropriate, City agencies shall ensure physical barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to City-owned and controlled property consistent with this ordinance.

Section 4: Public Information and Education. The City shall prominently publicize on its website a link to Sonoma County's centralized webpage of information about existing legislative measures applicable in Sonoma County and the City of Petaluma prohibiting cooperation between state and local government officials and federal immigration authorities, which also includes legal resources for immigrant communities including the Secure Families Collaborative, and the Public Defender's office.

Section 5: Staff or Agent Training. City staff or agents shall implement training for staff on how to address federal immigration authorities regarding the prohibitions described in Sections 2 and 3. City staff or agents will also develop and disseminate across all staff or agents specific protocols and procedures regarding interactions with federal immigration authorities.

Section 6: City Affirmation. The Petaluma City Council affirms the importance of directing its City staff or agents to prominently place signs explaining that a City resident's citizenship and immigration status will not be inquired into or collected unless required by the provisions of this ordinance as stated in Section 3(A). Signs will be prominently placed in lobbies and waiting rooms of all City departments or agencies and in City-sponsored community-facing webpages.

Section 7: Contractor Compliance. All City contracts, leases, grant agreements, memoranda of understanding, and any other agreements involving the use of City funds or City-controlled property executed on or after the effective date of this ordinance shall include language requiring the contractor, grantee, or lessee to:

- (A) Adopt and uphold all protections established in this ordinance;
- (B) Require compliance with this ordinance by their subcontractors and employees involved in the performance of the contract or operation of the funded facility;
- (C) Certify compliance with these obligations as a condition of award;
- (D) Notify the contract manager and City department head via email within three (3) business days of any request for assistance in activities restricted under this Ordinance.

Exceptions to these requirements may be granted only by ordinance of the City Council or where compliance is expressly preempted by federal or state law.

Section 8: Review and Reporting Requirements. In order to ensure compliance with this ordinance, within six months of adoption or whenever feasible, but not more than one year, the City departments or agencies, shall:

- (A) Review all City policies and practices to ensure compliance with this ordinance and to provide a report to the City Council, outlining steps taken to implement these provisions.
- (B) Report to the City Council that the signs have been placed in all lobbies and waiting rooms of all City departments or agencies and in City-sponsored community-facing webpages.
- (C) Report to the City Council all the trainings completed to ensure full compliance with this ordinance.

In order to maintain compliance with the ordinance, City departments or agencies shall report to the City Council how many requests were received for sensitive personal information by any federal immigration authorities every fiscal year.

Additionally, applicable City departments or agencies shall report to the City Council a summary of the City's participation in joint law enforcement taskforces as described in California Government Code section 7284.6(c)(1) every fiscal year.

- (A) The report shall include the purpose of the taskforce, the federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies involved, the total number of arrests made during the reporting period, the number of people arrested for immigration enforcement purposes, the number of case referrals between the Petaluma Police Department and the joint law enforcement task force, the number of Petaluma Police Department officers officially assigned to the joint law enforcement taskforce and a general description of the types of investigations that officers participated in that year, the total number of Petaluma Police Department personnel hours, pre-operational briefings held at a City facility that immediately precede law enforcement action that involves contacting members of the public, and total amount of City funds, including salary costs, allocated to the joint law enforcement task force.
- (B) The City departments or agencies shall not include information in the report that

would endanger the safety of a person involved in an investigation or the successful completion of the investigation or a related investigation, or the disclosure of which is prohibited or exempt under federal or state law.

Section 9: Commitment to Policies and Procedures: The City of Petaluma shall continue to promote, enforce, and defend City policies and procedures that protect the human and civil rights of all residents and that ensure adherence to the non-discrimination principles enacted by the people of Petaluma in the City's ordinance.

Section 10: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or its application of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid and/or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance.

Section 11: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days from the date of adoption. Petaluma City Council calls upon all City residents and all City departments and agencies, including its staff and agents to speak out against acts of bullying, discrimination and hate violence and to stand up for those who are targeted for such acts.

Be it further resolved, that the Petaluma City Council calls upon all incorporated cities within the County of Sonoma to adopt the foregoing policies, and we welcome opportunities to partner with the Legislature, other jurisdictions, local organizations, and businesses that support and defend these populations.

This ordinance was introduced by the Petaluma City Council on _____, 2026.

IN SESSION DULY PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.