Support Sanctuary Status in Our Towns!

Please join us in attending the upcoming Moraga, Orinda, and/or Lafayette City Council meetings to urge our local governments to declare sanctuary status. We are a group of concerned local residents who believe that diversity and inclusion are foundational values of our town, state, and country.

How it works:

1) Attend the Town Council meeting(s) and speak in the Public Comments Section at the beginning (3 minutes per person). The Council will hear but not yet discuss any matters presented during Public Comments.

2) Use your 3 minutes to offer personal or professional insights into this issue, and request that it be placed on the next possible Town Council meeting agenda. Don't feel pressured to prepare a statement; the Council just wants to hear your perspective.

3) Raise local awareness and prepare for the next Town Council meeting, when we hope the Council will formally deliberate on this proposal.

This message is strengthened by your voice. Let's assert our belief that all members of this community deserve respect and protection.

Monday Feb. 27 at 6:30PM
Lafayette City Council Meeting
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Community Hall
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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What is sanctuary status?

Sanctuary status is not a legal term. Generally, sanctuary cities pledge to "serve all individuals without regard to immigration status" through public statements and policy reform (Washington Post). This commonly includes "protect[ing] the privacy of community members by keeping their immigration status confidential" and "direct[ing] law enforcement officers not to investigate, arrest or hold people solely on the basis of immigration status" (WP).

Do Lamorinda towns need their own policies?

Through our contact with the Moraga Police Department, we have learned that the MPD does not detain individuals solely based on immigration status. Orinda city staff have also told us that the Orinda PD does not contact ICE on arrests. We ask that these policies, as well as relevant policies in other public agencies and schools, be reviewed and formally codified so as to send a clear, accessible message to all local residents.

In declaring sanctuary status, Lamorinda would join Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland, Albany, San Francisco, and San Jose in making such statements, as well as over 300 cities across the US. We hope that all of Contra Costa County will join this national movement.

You may have heard of the CA Values Act, which if passed will essentially require state and local agencies to abide by sanctuary policy. It is vital to build on this progress by reinforcing the message locally, and standing in solidarity with those in need. Let's show that Lamorinda respects the rights of all people.

What are the consequences of being a sanctuary city/town?

Sanctuary policy encourages trust between local institutions and communities. This promotes public safety by helping people feel safe to access public services and report crime.

A recent executive order has threatened sanctuary cities with financial repercussions. However, legal experts state that any withheld federal funding must directly relate to law enforcement, a type of funding Lamorinda towns do not receive. San Francisco recently filed a lawsuit over this executive order, and state Democrats have vowed to fight this issue in the courts.

Sources and more:

"Local Options for Protection Immigrants," Graber, Junck et al., *Immigrant Legal Resource Center*

"Trump can't force 'sanctuary cities' to enforce his deportation plans," Chemerinsky, Lai et al., *Washington Post* (December 22 2016)

We also have a Google Doc that includes this handout, as well as further research. You can email us for the link (also printed below). Please share with others!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hk4RNFb2d66aebuwA37T27SqjWp88IS7WHC_DNqpwPU/edit?usp=sharing

Even more sources to check out:

California Values Act
- The bill's text and ongoing status:
  http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB54
- http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-california-immigration-bills-hearing-20170131-story.html

Sanctuary status
- California's sanctuary cities:
  https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26/us/california-today-sanctuary-cities-trump.html?_r=1
- Bay Area sanctuary cities:
  http://postnewsgroup.com/blog/2017/01/25/bay-area-sanctuary-cities-vow-resist-trump-despite-federal-funding-cuts/
- Op-ed on Bay Area sanctuary cities:
  http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/25/editorial-bay-area-cities-are-on-the-right-side-of-immigration-clash/
- SF sanctuary policy, from 2008:
  http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Immigrant-sanctuary-laws-seen-as-practical-3206563.php
- http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-sanctuary-cities-20161114-story.html
- http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article29584966.html
- What It's Like to Have Your Parents Deported:
  https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/27/opinion/what-its-like-to-have-your-parents-deported.html?_r=1

The executive order and possible financial repercussions
- Washington Post article cited above:
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/trump-cant-force-sanctuary-cities-to-enforce-his-deportation-plans/2016/12/22/421174d4-c7a4-11e6-85b5-76616a33048d_story.html?utm_term=.b7c973f06be9
- Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey question implementation of "clearly unconstitutional" executive order regarding sanctuary jurisdictions:
  https://www.warren.senate.gov/files/documents/2017-2-27_Letters_to_Federal_Agencies_re_Trump_Sanctuary_City_EO.pdf
- http://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2017/january/marron-institute-cities-and-immigration-event.html

- http://money.cnn.com/2016/11/19/news/economy/sanctuary-cities-trump-funding/index.html
- http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/25/is-trump-about-to-come-down-on-the-bay-areas-sanctuary-cities/
- http://www.oaklandmagazine.com/January-2017/Our-Backyard-Oakland-Alameda-and-Berkeley-Should-Sue-Trump/
- http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/26/511899896/trumps-threatens-sanctuary-cities-with-loss-of-federal-funds
- SF lawsuit: http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-to-sue-over-Trump-s-executive-order-10897364.php

Immigration enforcement in Contra Costa County
- http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Collaboration-Between-ICE-Contra-Costa-County-Sheriffs-Dept-Sparks-Protest-411817065.html
- Contra Costa Sheriff's Office and ICE ties: http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/ambushed-contra-costa-county-law-enforcement-sets-up-surprise-stings-to-help-federal-immigration-agents-arrest-and-deport-immigrants/Content?oid=5078922&showFullText=true
- Data on ICE detainee transfers from Contra Costa County Jail West: http://www.trac.syr.edu/immigration/detention/201509/CONWECA/tran/
- http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Contra-Costa-sheriff-s-tie-to-ICE-riles-10915704.php
- Op-ed opposing the expansion of West County jail: http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/02/14/commentary-contra-costa-needs-more-prevention-not-more-jail-cells/

In-depth resources from immigration research centers
- Immigration Legal Resource Center: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/local_options-20161215.pdf
- Also from ILRC: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/sanctuary_report_final_1-min.pdf
- More on advocacy from ILRC: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/toolkit_final.compressed.pdf
- Safe zones resource from National Immigration Law Center: https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Model-Campus-Safe-Zones-Language-K12-countrywide-2016-12.pdf

General immigration reform and history

- https://www.guernicamag.com/aviva_chomsky_immigration_myth/
- https://www.democracynow.org/2014/5/30/how_immigration_became_illegal_aviva_chomsky
- "The story of U.S. immigrants in their own words": https://myimmigrationstory.com/