

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. AR 2017-22**

1 **DECLARING BERNALILLO COUNTY AS AN IMMIGRANT-FRIENDLY**  
2 **COUNTY, AND TO SAFEGUARD THE CIVIL RIGHTS, SAFETY AND DIGNITY**  
3 **OF ALL OUR RESIDENTS, WHETHER THEY BE IMMIGRANTS, WAR**  
4 **REFUGEES, PEOPLE OF COLOR, MUSLIMS, JEWS, LGBTQ PEOPLE, OR**  
5 **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. ESTABLISHING BERNALILLO COUNTY**  
6 **POLICIES REGARDING IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, REGARDLESS**  
7 **OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, since the election of new National leadership there has been a sense of  
10 uncertainty and fear among many communities in Bernalillo County, across our State, and  
11 across the Nation; and

12 **WHEREAS**, recent Presidential Executive Orders relating to immigration enforcement  
13 have done nothing to allay those fears, and in fact contain directives that threaten to lead to  
14 family separation, endanger refugees fleeing violence and persecution, strip immigrants of  
15 their due process, and discriminate against the Muslim community; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States recognizes  
17 the sovereign status of the states and their political subdivisions and precludes the federal  
18 government from attempting to compel state and local governments, either directly or by  
19 their use of threats to withhold federal funding, to assist the federal government in enforcing  
20 federal laws, including immigration laws; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County should not adopt policies that may violate its residents'  
22 constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment such as "immigration detainers", and that  
23 exceed the government's limited warrantless arrest authority under federal law, exposing the  
24 County to civil rights violations;

**CONTINUATION PAGE 2, ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AR 2017-22.**

1           **WHEREAS**, the County Commission wishes to assure its vulnerable communities that  
2           the County supports them, will do all it can to maintain and improve their quality of life, and  
3           does not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, bullying or harassment; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the County Commission wishes to declare that Bernalillo County is a safe  
5           place for immigrants from all countries, as well as for war refugees, people of color,  
6           Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people, and people with disabilities;

7           **WHEREAS**, thousands of immigrants and their families have lived and worked in the  
8           Bernalillo County area for many years; and

9           **WHEREAS**, immigrants from throughout the world contribute to Bernalillo County's  
10          cultural richness and economic prosperity, through their labor and initiative, payment of  
11          taxes, and other economic and cultural activities; and

12          **WHEREAS**, the County Commission believes in the human dignity of all Bernalillo  
13          County residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the importance of  
14          immigrants' many contributions to the social, cultural, intellectual, and economic fabric of  
15          the County; and

16          **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County is made up of diverse individuals, both native born and  
17          immigrants, whose collective cultures, religions, backgrounds, orientations, abilities, and  
18          viewpoints join to form a highly pluralistic community which prides itself on being a place  
19          which welcomes persons and families of all walks of life; and

20          **WHEREAS**, young people in Bernalillo County enrolled in the Deferred Action for  
21          Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program deserve an opportunity to have a bright future and to  
22          contribute their time and talent to make Bernalillo County a county of innovation and  
23          growth; and

**CONTINUATION PAGE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AR 2017-22.**

1           **WHEREAS**, the County Commission believes the County to be a safe and welcoming  
2 place for all students and their families, regardless of origin or immigration status and  
3 supports the Albuquerque Public Schools policy to create a safe haven for all students  
4 regardless of their immigration status; and

5           **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County has a strong tradition and mission of embracing and  
6 valuing diversity and the County Commission believes that it is similarly important to  
7 support diversity and to provide services to all persons in the County regardless of their race,  
8 disability, national origin, gender identity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity,  
9 economic or immigration status (in addition to any other protected classes under local, state  
10 or federal law); and

11           **WHEREAS**, the County Commission is greatly concerned about public safety in  
12 Bernalillo County and the mission of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department is to  
13 protect the safety of the public against crimes committed by persons whoever they may be;  
14 and

15           **WHEREAS**, most residents in the County, including the vast majority of immigrants, are  
16 law-abiding citizens and are, when crimes occur, themselves the victims of crime, and  
17 because of this the County wishes to foster trust and cooperation between the County, its  
18 Sheriff's Department, and its immigrant communities to encourage immigrants to report  
19 crime and speak to the Sheriff's deputies and employees without fear of being arrested or  
20 reported to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency; and

21           **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County's Sheriffs' Department standard operating procedures  
22 are consistent with this resolution and recognizes that "enforcement of immigration laws and  
23 arrest of undocumented foreign nationals resides exclusively with the federal government",

**CONTINUATION PAGE 4, ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AR 2017-22.**

1 and that “officers shall not stop, question, detain, or arrest any person solely on the ground  
2 that they may be undocumented”, and “shall not inquire about or seek proof of a person’s  
3 immigration status” unless it is pertinent to the investigation of an underlying non-  
4 immigration criminal violation; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the County Commission firmly believes that the involvement of local  
6 government in enforcement of federal civil immigration laws undermines a productive and  
7 trusting relationship with the immigrant community and hinders local law enforcement and  
8 community safety; and

9 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the  
10 governing body of the County of Bernalillo, that

11 **SECTION 1:** The Commission declares Bernalillo County to be an “Immigrant-Friendly  
12 County”. The Commission welcomes and encourages immigrants to live, work, and study in  
13 Bernalillo County and to participate in community affairs, and recognizes immigrants for  
14 their important contributions to our culture and economy.

15  
16 **SECTION 2:** The Commission establishes the following policies for Bernalillo County:

- 17 A. To the fullest extent allowed by federal and state law, immigrants and their families,  
18 who live within the county limits of Bernalillo shall have access to all Bernalillo  
19 County.
- 20 B. The County encourages all public agencies to facilitate the access of immigrants and  
21 their families to basic services, including but not limited to legal driver’s licenses,  
22 health care, police protection, and education, including Central New Mexico (CNM)  
23 and the University of New Mexico, to the fullest extent to allowable by law.
- 24 C. The County will include in its legislative agendas requests that Congress enact just  
25 and humane immigration reforms that provide immigrants and their families with  
26 rights in this country that are commensurate with human dignity and their status as  
27 taxpayers and contributing members of our community, and the State of New Mexico  
28 Legislature revise its laws and policies for health care, education, and driver’s  
29 licenses to such that immigrants and their families will have fair access to those  
30 services and privileges.
- 31 D. The County shall not discriminate on the basis of a person’s national origin and will  
32 treat all persons with respect and dignity, regardless of immigration status.
- 33 E. No county monies, resources, or personnel shall be used to enforce federal civil  
34 immigration laws or to investigate, question, detect, or apprehend persons on the  
35 basis of immigration status unless otherwise required by law to do so.

1 SECTION 3: The County Commission supports the equal treatment of all persons and states  
2 that all persons who live within the County shall have full access to all county services with  
3 respect and dignity, including public safety services and programs, regardless of their race,  
4 disability, national origin, gender identity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic  
5 or immigration status (in addition to any other protected classes under local, state or federal law).  
6

7 SECTION 4: That Bernalillo County staff is directed to review current County policies and  
8 practices to ensure they are in accordance with this Resolution and propose to the Commission  
9 means to address any non-compliance. As part of their analysis, County staff may identify and  
10 recommend policies or proposals that would serve to supplement and enhance the County's  
11 immigrant friendly status.  
12

13 DONE this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.



14  
15 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

16  
17   
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Debbie O'Malley, Chair

20  
21   
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Steven Michael Quezada, Vice Chair

24  
25   
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member

28  
29   
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

32  
33   
34 \_\_\_\_\_  
35 Wayne A. Johnson, Member

36 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

37  
38   
39 \_\_\_\_\_  
40 W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney

41 ATTEST:

42  
43   
44 \_\_\_\_\_  
45 Linda Stover  
46 County Clerk  
47  
48  
49