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# Supervisors OK civil rights resolution; critics say it doesn't go far enough

By Sam Armanino, [sarmanino@times-standard.com](mailto:sarmanino@times-standard.com), [@SamSva32](https://twitter.com/SamSva32) on Twitter

A majority of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday focused on a civil rights resolution brought by the county's Human Rights Commission, which was unanimously approved after a lengthy discussion.

The resolution outlines the county's stance on immigration enforcement and that it "values equal protection and equal treatment for all our residents."

During a public comment period, more than a half-dozen community members said, while the resolution is a good step, it does not go far enough and should be adopted on the enforcement level.

Renee Saucedo, of Centro Del Pueblo and an advocate for the immigrant community, said the resolution will not help families trust local law enforcement agencies.

“This resolution is a good start, but it does not address the fear,” Saucedo said.

She said families are scared to contact law enforcement because of their immigration status.

Saucedo told the board about her 83-year-old mother has received a deportation notice. She said she personally would not call law enforcement, except for the most extreme incidents, out of fear of her mother being deported. Saucedo urged the board to go further into a “sanctuary” ordinance to protect the community.

“Do you care enough for our families?” Saucedo asked the board as she finished her public comment.

Several people who spoke after Saucedo voiced agreement that the resolution is OK, but they would like to see it move toward an enforceable ordinance.

Members from the Human Rights Commission attended the meeting and a couple members spoke on behalf of the ad hoc committee that worked to craft the resolution’s language.

Jim Glover, chairman of the Human Rights Commission, gave a brief statement in support of the resolution drafted. He said communities are under assault.

“We must defend the assault [against immigrants] with every opportunity,” Glover said.

Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsal discussed his office’s role in immigration.

“I believe that the way the state laws are written in California is the way we need to go,” Honsal said.

In a statement earlier this month, Honsal wrote that he has no control regarding federal law enforcement officials conducting action in the community.

He said there is a fear in some parts of the community regarding federal immigration enforcement presence and stated his office will not be participating in joint enforcement actions when immigration enforcement is the sole purpose.

“Our [No. 1] priority is to investigate crime and make our community safe,” Honsal wrote.

Saucedo told the Times-Standard that local law enforcement agencies, such as the sheriff’s office, are legally allowed to not collaborate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or federal law enforcement. She said the department should stop collaborating all together.

“There will be no trust,” Saucedo said to the Times-Standard, “and if there is no trust, then the entire community suffers.”

Honsal said there have been two incidents which involved immigration enforcement in the county since he took over as sheriff in May. He said one suspect was allegedly involved in child pornography; the other was a suspected violent criminal.

“The fear is real and I believe that,” Honsal told the board, but added that this is a problem with federal immigration reform and not with Humboldt County or local law enforcement.

“We’ve heard a lot of people today, we heard and I would like to say we are standing up,” 2nd District Supervisor Estelle Fennell said.

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