

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on March 6, 2017. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <http://vimeo.com/channels/40154>.

Council Members Present:

Lee Kyriacou, At Large
George Mansfield, At Large
Peggy Ross, Ward One
Omar Harper, Ward Two
Pamela Wetherbee, Ward Three
Ali Muhammad, Ward Four
Randy Casale, Mayor

Council Members Absent/Excused:**Also Present:**

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator
Edward Phillips, City Attorney

A moment of silence was observed for those who work to protect human rights

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak up to three minutes on any subject matter other than those which are the topic of a public hearing tonight.

Speakers:

Justin Riccobono: Our City has always been fair and evenhanded. This movement is a campaign of fear meant to be divisive. If the Federal government comes here to arrest someone, there is nothing we can do about it.

Diane Pizzanelli: Sanctuary City status means would bar police from notifying ICE about illegal immigrants released from a prison. Gave history of sanctuary city. Why should residents obey any laws, when the local government is going against the federal government? Mentioned 9/11 and reminded that there are people who wish to do the US harm. This issue should be voted on by referendum. Let's keep Beacon peaceful.

David Jensen: Is in favor of open borders and thinks the wall proposal is obtuse. The concept of sanctuary city has not been defined. The statement from the police chief regarding the police department's policy and role is excellent. Sees no benefit of adopting this resolution.

Michael Justice: Believes that this proposal to become a sanctuary city is ridiculous. Agrees with Mr. Jensen and believes that Beacon is a great city with legal and illegal citizens. Does not want this to affect the city's finances in terms of litigation.

Mathew Condon: Advised that the president promised to defund any city that declares itself a sanctuary city. Added that this is not a decision for the council; it is a decision for the people. The police should ticket the trucks making deliveries while parked illegally.

Pete Nocerino: The City Charter Committee will be presenting their report on Wed. March 8 at 7pm at City Hall.

Sue Waivada: Has a long history in Beacon and the Hudson Highlands. Gave crime statistics of sanctuary cities. (see attachment no. 1)

Lisa Marie Martinez: Has been waiting seven years for this issue to be discussed. Is a teacher, business owner and single mother. Shared the story of when her partner was arrested by Beacon Police and was later removed by ICE officials. Added that she is not concerned about whether we call Beacon a Sanctuary City, but is concerned with the Beacon PD and discretion. I concerned that the people who have been living, working and worshipping in our community will be taken away from their families.

Charles Wilson: I am not a native Beaconite but I love Beacon. Does not believe that this will affect the average citizen but may affect gang members.

Joe Gilmore: Chief Solomon made it clear that discretion is part of the BPD's job to keep all of us safe. (see attachment no. 2).

Ted L'Estrange: Advised about the persecution of Falun Dafa practitioners in China. Also mentioned the practice of genocide by scalpel in China. Would like give this issue attention via word of mouth.

Council Member Reports:

Ali Muhammad: Glad to see so many people here for the meeting. Does not share the idea that if we become a sanctuary city, the floodgates will open and fill our city with hardened criminals. Asked Nick if the police's jurisdiction is limited to the City of Beacon. Declaring a sanctuary city will help peaceful undocumented people from being taken from their homes and families. It is not meant to protect violent criminals. Asks that the exact words that are recited when a police officer takes his or her oath. Gave details about the upcoming Unity in the Community meeting. Showed a store sign which stated that Beacon is Open Minded. Advised that the Terrance Wright Basketball League will be starting again soon. Hopes to start a women's basketball league. Had a question about a parking ticket.

Omar Harper: Thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions. Can understand both sides of the issue. Has friends who may not have permanent status and would not want to see them removed from the U.S. Updated the council on the wrestling team.

Lee Kyriacou: Encouraged those who wished to speak on the sanctuary city issue to stay for the second opportunity for public comments. Waived his further remarks and is interested to hear what everyone has to say.

George Mansfield: Agrees with Council Member Kyriacou and encourages those who wish to speak on the issue to stay until the second opportunity for comments. Thinks that this is a good way hear different views on the issue and possibly can bring the community together. We will be discussing this matter again at the next workshop. Believes there is validity to all opinions.

Pam Wetherbee: Agrees with George and Lee and looks forward to more comments.

Peggy Ross: Looks forward to the comments and thinks that we can be careful and do the right thing. Reminded about the medication disposal and the Beacon Historical Society is in the middle of their membership drive – it is the best deal in Beacon. We need to be cognoscente of our history.

George Mansfield: Added that these comments should be taken to the County level as well.

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator: Recognized Police Officer Boutros who saved a person with the use of narcane and the City Water Dept. for responding to a water main break on perhaps the coldest night of the winter. The afterschool program is doing a series of podcasts.

Mayor Casale: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and speaking on both sides. Sick and tired of looking on Facebook and watching the bashing on both sides of any subject. People should be respectful to each other. Is appalled by the way people are talking to each other. We are going to have our Charter presentation on March 8 in the Council Chambers. Thanked the Committee and Dr. Benjamin. Attended most of the meetings, which felt like a college course in government. Appreciated

all the volunteers and Dr. Benjamin. Advised that we were going to be reissuing an RFP for food trucks at Pete and Toshi Park and at the pool. Read the RFP. Saturday is the second annual Parade of Green at 11:00. It is a family event and urges people to come. Reminded about Daylight Savings Time next weekend.

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

- 1. Resolution to Authorize the Agreement with Things You Love, LLC. For the operation of the Beacon Flea Market**
 - Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Mansfield
7-0
- 2. Resolution Authorizing the Amendments to Greenway Connections: Greenway Compact Program and Guides for Dutchess County Communities, Adding Seven New Greenway Guides.**
 - Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Ross
7-0
- 3. Resolution to Authorize the City of Beacon's Pledge to Support the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance**
 - Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second Council Member Mansfield
7-0
- 4. Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Joule Assets, Inc. for Consulting Services Relating to Municipal Energy Services**
 - Motion by Council Member Ross, second by Council Member Wetherbee
7-0
- 5. Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2017**
 - Motion by Council Member Harper, second by Council Member Mansfield
7-0

Second Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on any subject matter on which the Council can take action.

Speakers:

Nicole Wooten: Supports becoming a sanctuary city. Does not like the term "illegal" and hope that people will be careful when referring to undocumented people. Does not believe any human is "illegal".

Eric Deal: Is a newer Beacon resident and is happy to be a part of the community. Travels a lot and has had a great experience in Detroit where he met many immigrants. Hopes everyone will say no to xenophobia and no to hate.

Susan Pagen: Support Beacon becoming a sanctuary city. As a farmer, she has worked alongside many undocumented workers. Stated that she is a person of faith and quoted the Torah; Leviticus commands, "When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" [19:33-34].

Theresa Kraft: Has concerns about the overdevelopment of Beacon. Asked City leaders to take a step back and issue a building moratorium. Asked that the Tioronda Bridge be restored. (Attachment no. 3)

Liz Birth: Has lived in Beacon for 10 years. Thanks the council for considering the Sanctuary City status. Personally knows two people who are afraid of what is happening.

John Christian: Cannot believe that Beacon is considering this. Believes that if people living here want to be legal, they can become legal. Believes that crime would rise, property values would decline and taxes would rise.

Rev. Benson: Reminded that when the meeting starts, we say the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer for our soldiers. What the Revolutionary War soldiers fought for was a sanctuary county. This country was a melting intended to be a melting pot. Advised that he was born in Mississippi and has been exposed to racism. What is happening now may be the law but it does not make it right.

Connie Hogarth: Reiterated and reaffirmed her previous statement regarding her strong belief in Beacon becoming a Sanctuary City. Wants to help protect the most vulnerable among us. Does not think that passively declaring that our police will not aid ICE is enough but wishes to proactively state that we be counted as a sanctuary city. Thinks it is important that we represent that Beacon has the courage not to bend to threats and blackmail. (Attachment no. 4)

April Farley: Shared information about the next Southern Dutchess NAACP meeting. Supports the Sanctuary City status movement. Would like to know why crime is down and arrests are up.

Jason Hughes: Council was voted in to office to be the voice of progressive Beacon. Stated that there is no bad time to be on the right side of history.

Jodi McCredo: Gave an update on the Human Relations Commission, their mission and contact information.

Bill Moore: Thanked the council for this opportunity to speak. Feels proud when we stand to say the pledge of alliance. Feels it's important to respect the country where you are. Thinks those who are serving our country in the military should take the oath to defend our country. Thinks people should carry their id with them. Has been asked for id in other countries.

Dr. David Eberle: Advised that he has been in Beacon for 13 years and has volunteered on six boards. He works hard to make Beacon a better city. In 1928, the U.S. passed one of the most restrictive immigration laws in the history of our country. However, that did not work so we went back. Shared a story about a black man who helped him turn his life around. Raised his children not to discriminate. Referred to the words on the Statue of Liberty. Reminded that there have been times when our country has not done the right thing.

Codi Anderson: Agrees with Councilman Muhammad in that even if the police have a policy now there might be a change to that policy if personnel changes are made. Hope we can help protect the most vulnerable people in our community, those not documents.

Julie Shiroishi: Been a resident for 10 years. Referred to her email and an article from the LA Times. (Attachment no. 5)

Joansa: Supports the Sanctuary City idea. Has seen many citizens who have not been able to even get a library card. Referred to the button that she was wearing "No Human is Illegal" – but added "not by choice". A lot of people have problems becoming citizens. Stated that "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Arthur Cammins: Just moved here. Urges everyone to examine their own values. This push is not about crime, it is not about who is committing crime because statistically, immigrants commit less crimes in the US. Look into your own heart and do what is right.

Rev. Ricardo Pacheco: No one knows more about the Sanctuary City than the Latino Community. It began with the Salvadoran and Guatemalans who were escaping the communists' regime. Tabernacle Christ Church serves undocumented young people, with meals, clothes and spiritual guidance. Also serves as Naval Chaplain, so it is a double edge sword. Hopes that we can collectively help the underserved.

Jen Herman: Is concerned about community safety. One in four woman experiences sexual violence. Wants undocumented people to feel safe and feel safe in reporting crimes. Shared statistics about domestic violence.

Those who are the most vulnerable, are the least likely to report a crime. If we are not willing to stand with victims, we are not willing to encourage them to come forward to report crimes. Thereby, we are not keeping our community safe. Urges the council to adopt a policy that would make victims feel comfortable to come forward.

Arrabella: Agrees with the earlier speaker. Loves Beacon and has been here for 7 years. Believes that we have the opportunity to imagine something different-where people are safe.

Lou Amaroso: Been here for 77 years. Gave history of his family's migration to Beacon. Has over 50 years as a fire volunteer here. Does not see any newcomers willing to contribute to the city through volunteerism. Gave a story about Ellis Island. Does not wish to have the community get aggravated with each other. State that he never used to lock his doors. Recommends that we get out there and work together.

Air Nonken: Advised that we all have an immigration story. Shared a story from her family's history. Has lived in Beacon for a few years and is happy that she can volunteer on committees and participate in the community. Hope that we can have a justice system that will protect people. No one is illegal by choice. We are discussing the fates and the lives of our neighbors. Would like Beacon to be a beacon of light for our residents and throughout the world.

Erin Guinta: 10-year resident. Advised that the WePlay volunteer organization is collecting clothing for the sale event at USC. Is happy to serve her community. Is glad that her kids will be considered Beaconites. Supports Sanctuary City status.

Councilman Muhammad: Advised that Ella's Bellas is raising funds for the recreation department.

Becca Star: Advised that a free volunteer led performance was held yesterday at the Rec. and they were able to raise \$600 for afterschool programs and summer camp tuition.

Adjournment:

- Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Ross
7-0

Next Workshop: March 13, 2017

Next Meeting: March 20, 2017

Hello Again. My name is Sue Waivada



I currently live on Depuyster Ave and have a long family history with Beacon and the Hudson Highlands.

I have memories:

- Of riding the incline railway with my Aunt
- Of the Ferry to Newburgh to cool off on a hot summer day (before AC was common and before the bridge opened)
- Of learning to ski on Mt Beacon (unsuccessfully).

My parents were founding members of the Clearwater with Pete & Toshi. As kids, my sister & I spent many days on the Sloop and at Long Dock... before it was a real park.

My mom reminded that she worked with the Beacon Urban Renewal Agency back in the 1970's.

I love Beacon, its history, arts, culture, environmentalism and it's diversity.

I want to approach the idea of SANCTUARY a little differently tonight.

Others will be far more ELOQUENT regarding the human, moral and political face of this.

First , What is a Sanctuary city? A place where:

- 1) LAW ENFORCEMENT DOES NOT ASK FOR IMMIGRATION STATUS (THIS IS OUR CURRENT POLICY)
- 2) LAW ENFORCEMENT DOES NOT ASSIST FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO DETAIN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS APPREHENDED FOR LOW LEVEL OFFENSES (NOTE, low level offenses)

Then, What about CRIME and IT'S COSTS?

Sanctuary Cities are safer.

A professor at UC San Diego studied data from ICE and found sanctuary has LOWER CRIME RATES, STRONGER ECONOMIES, HIGHER MEDIAN INCOME, LESS POVERTY, LESS RELIANCE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT.

Beacon is safe ! As noted in the Current in February:

Reports of serious crimes in Beacon fell to their lowest level in five years, and are now 25 percent lower than in 2012.

As Chief Soloman was quoted in the same article, "arrests were up in 2016...while reported crime is down. "That means the officers are being more proactive."

As a small town, with limited resources, our Police Dept. needs to stay focused and should keep doing what they are doing.

What about Economics?

1 in 5 New Yorkers are immigrants and account for 27% of the workforce.

Approx 5.7% are unauthorized but pay taxes...sales tax, income tax, property tax of over 1 billion dollars

The purchasing power of Immigrant, Latino & Asian entrepreneurs and consumers is 195 billion dollars in NY

As a small town, do we want to lose out portion of this?

Unfortunately, the status quo is over. The few interactions with ICE in the past may well become a distant memory. We now have an Executive Order that is making deportation a priority of up to 11 million people. **That means no town, no city, no county is immune.**

We don't need any additional work on our officers. We don't need to add detention costs to our city. We don't need to weaken our economy. **And we don't need to destroy trust with our population, immigrant or otherwise.**

We need to act.

Thank you.

Joe Gilmore

#2

TO THE BEACON CITY COUNCIL

Because national immigration policies are, with new intensity, threatening the well-being, the security and the integrity of families across the country, including our own community, the City of Beacon declares itself a sanctuary city. By this declaration, we intend to continue to provide public safety and, at the same time, to reassure all of our immigrant families that they will be included in this safety.

Therefore, relying on guidance from the Attorney General of New York State, Eric T. S. Schneiderman, and remaining within powers given to local communities in both the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York, we are taking the following steps:

1. Our police shall not perform the functions of a federal immigration officer or otherwise engage in the enforcement of federal immigration law. They shall not stop, question, interrogate, investigate, or arrest an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status.
2. They may respond affirmatively to a "civil immigration detainer" from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or CBP (Customs and Border Protection) ONLY if the request is accompanied by a judicial warrant, the individual has been convicted of serious crimes under NY Penal Law, or if there is probable cause to believe the individual is or has been engaged in terrorist activity. ICE can still do their job if they just need DUE PROCESS => a warrant if they want police help.
3. The police may respond affirmatively to an ICE or CBP request for non-public information about an individual (release schedule, home address, work address) ONLY if the request is accompanied by a judicial warrant.
4. They shall not provide ICE or CBP with access to an individual in their custody the use of department facilities to question or interview such an individual if ICE or CBP's sole purpose is enforcement of federal immigration law.
5. They shall protect the due process rights of persons as to whom federal immigration enforcement requests have been made, including providing

Probable Cause

those persons with appropriate notice of said request. Individuals in the custody of our police shall be subject to the same booking, processing, release, and transfer procedures, policies, and practices of our police department, regardless of actual or suspected citizenship or immigration status.

6. Our police department resources shall not be used to create a federal registry based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

Members of the City Council have been provided with complete copies of the Attorney General's *"Guidance Concerning Local Authority Participation In Immigration Enforcement And Model Sanctuary Provisions."*

All of these steps are taken to protect families from being summarily torn apart, to make it possible for children of our immigrant families to feel part of their school and social communities, and for our city to honor and protect the diversity we are so lucky to have.

Elizabeth Evans

From: tkraft64 <tkraft64@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 8:12 PM
To: Elizabeth Evans
Subject: Tkraft - letter read at 3-6-2017 public comment segment

I'd like to address the subject of the Greenway Compact Program in discussion with this council, as this program is calling for the City of Beacon to implement the Greenway Connections guidelines while incorporating some of the following; Greenspaces, Slower Safer Streets, Rural Roads, Building Bicycle Networks and **Green Infrastructure**.

It states "the narrative is generic in nature because the adoption of the new Greenway Guides is not related to a specific project site **and may potentially affect future land use decisions.**"

We must heed these words; already the new invasion of over development on this city is impacting land development, water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, aesthetics, historic resources, open space, recreational opportunities, transportation systems, infrastructure, safety and general welfare of its current residents. Let alone the worsening parking crisis.

The City of Beacon needs to step back on their current building construction process, it must stop saying everything is Grandfather-in, a common thread in almost all new major building project on the dockets, even if it involves an emergency building moratorium.

I'm holding a copy of a document from early 2000 where Scenic Hudson is stated as being actively involved in attaining landmark status for the Tioronda Bridge insuring its appropriate restoration in the future. In addition to it being on The National Register of Historic Places. The City must restore the Tioronda Bridge - it is beneficial not only for our city's culture, but also for our local economy and our city's heritage.

Tkraft

#4

conart1@optonline.net

To: conart1@optonline.net
Subject: Sanctuary statement to City Council Mar 6 2017

MARCH 6, 2017 TO BEACON CITY COUNCIL

I am Connie Hogarth and I live at 20 Hartsook Lane.

Tonight, I want to reiterate and reaffirm my statement of two weeks ago and my firm belief in the Importance of Beacon becoming a Sanctuary City. I consider it a moral imperative, a call for the health and safety of all in our community, and a call for the courage and strength of our community, our governing body—the City Council, the Mayor and the Beacon Police dept. —to protect the most vulnerable among us from the tyranny of fear of detention and deportation and rejection, in a very serious time in our history.

In my view, that should mean not only passively declaring our unwillingness to use our police to aid ICE, if and when they ask for the power of our police, but to proactively state our commitment to joining the growing number of cities and states—hopefully NYState soon--- to be counted as a Sanctuary City. To be counted as a Sanctuary City not only strengthens this growing movement for justice but says loud and clear who we are

And how we join with others to say so. On a human level, this commitment will have a huge impact on those, particularly in the Muslim and Latino communities, who fear they may be next under attack, and to know we have their back, publicly.

Also, we need to have the courage to reject what could be a kind of blackmail, the threat from the Federal govt

To withhold funds from cities that are Sanctuaries. We can not bend to this kind of threat and must fight it, along with other cities, if it should happen. The strength of numbers who call themselves Sanctuary City will make a difference when there is broad resistance . We can likely forestall this economic threat from being carried out. Yes, there is strength in numbers, an old saw...and we see, in addition to Kingston, but now resolutions are in process in Newburgh, in Westchester in Bedford and in Irvington and I know there will be many more.

Latest report from California yesterday in the NYTimes, of the city of Santa Ana in Orange Cty, has passed one of the boldest and mor farreaching sanctuary ordinances in Ca. They are 46 % immigrant, and its mayor and six City Council members are Latino...and Orange Cty, Ca has been known as a haven of white Republicans. This is great news...and we need to look at their ordinance and consider...

Yes, this is a time for taking stands for our democracy in many ways and this commitment to be counted as a Sanctuary City is worthy of the values we cherish and that we live, here in Beacon. We should wear Beacon Sanctuary City with pride, knowing we are doing the right thing.

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Subject: FW: [HVCC] RE: "Sanctuary" Policies Protect Communities, Not Criminals

Localities that pursue these policies are often criticized for being soft on unauthorized immigration, yet none of these policies conceal or shelter unauthorized immigrants from deportation or prosecution for criminal activities. In fact, jurisdictions that have sanctuary policies still cooperate with federal immigration officials.

“Sanctuary” Policies Protect Communities, Not Criminals

MARCH 2, 2017

Written by Michele Waslin

State by state “sanctuary” policies have received significant attention lately. Hundreds of communities across the nation have passed some version of a sanctuary policy and in doing so have made decisions about how they want to use their local resources. Yet the new administration, as well as others, are attempting to impede their ability to have local control over their communities and are incorrectly criticizing them as safe havens for criminals.

It’s important to understand that sanctuary policies take many forms including limiting local compliance with federal detainers; restricting the ability of police to make arrests for federal immigration violations; prohibiting 287(g) agreements; refusing to enter into a contract with the federal government to hold immigrants in detention; or restricting immigration enforcement in sensitive locations like hospitals and schools.

Localities that pursue these policies are often criticized for being soft on unauthorized immigration, yet none of these policies conceal or shelter unauthorized immigrants from deportation or prosecution for criminal activities. In fact, jurisdictions that have sanctuary policies still cooperate with federal immigration officials in a variety of ways including by sending federal immigration agencies the fingerprints of any person—including an immigrant—booked into a prison or jail through the Secure Communities program.

These sanctuary policies are not pursued in an effort to deter law enforcement but rather to strengthen resident-police relations and ensure that all people feel comfortable reporting crimes, regardless of immigration status. When local law enforcement is seen as immigration enforcement, community trust is lost.

In an effort to have local control over local resources, several state governors have taken action in opposition to federal attempts to expand the role of local police in immigration enforcement including:

- The Governor of Oregon who signed an executive order stating that no state agency may use moneys, equipment, or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws, except as required by federal or state law or as otherwise authorized by the Governor or her designee.

- The Governor of Washington who signed an executive order blocking state law enforcement agencies from detaining anyone solely on the basis of immigration status or at the request of federal officials. It also blocks state agencies from discriminating against, or refusing service, to unauthorized immigrants.
- Connecticut Governor Malloy who instructed law enforcement in his state not to comply with ICE and told school officials to design response plans to implement if ICE appears at the school.
- New York's Attorney General who released guidance to local law enforcement on participation in immigration enforcement. It recommends that local police should not engage in activities with the sole purpose of enforcing federal immigration laws or honor detainers absent a judicial warrant.

State legislative efforts towards the same end goal include:

- California's "Values Act" which would prohibit state and local police from spending money on federal law enforcement. It would also ban immigration enforcement in schools, health care facilities, and courthouses.
- Maryland's "Trust Act" which would bar police from complying with federal detainers, prohibits police from making immigration arrests, and ban immigration enforcement in schools, hospitals, and courthouses.
- New Mexico's HB116 which ensures state funds are spent on protecting communities from violent crimes and not on federal immigration enforcement.

On the anti-sanctuary side, bills have also been introduced in many states including Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. In Arizona, Georgia, and Iowa, bills have been passed out of committee, and in Mississippi an anti-sanctuary bill passed out of the state legislature in the House . In several other states, bills that include provisions to hold local officials liable for crimes that occur in sanctuary cities have been introduced including:

- Colorado's HB1134 which in addition to prohibiting sanctuary cities, would allow victims of crimes committed by unauthorized immigrants to sue local officials;
- Pennsylvania's SB10 which would allow certain people to sue municipalities over their sanctuary policies;
- SB4 in Texas would charge local officials who violate this law with a misdemeanor;
- Virginia's SB1262 would make sanctuary cities liable for injuries caused by unauthorized immigrants.

We are likely to see the debate over sanctuary policies continue, making it even more important that our leaders have the facts and are well-informed before making decisions that impact people's lives.

SHARE THIS ARTICLE:    

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#5

Elizabeth Evans

From: Julie Shiroishi <julie.shiroishi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:13 PM
To: Ali Muhammad; Anthony Ruggiero; George M. Mansfield; Lee Kyriacou; Omar Harper; Pam Wetherbee; Peggy Ross; Randy J. Casale
Subject: Sanctuary

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I applaud your decision to workshop codifying Beacon as a Sanctuary city. I think it's clear from the moving statements offered by my neighbors--as well as several of our community's faith leaders--that doing so is the morally correct thing to do. As the daughter of an American citizen who was interned during a period of wartime hysteria, I also know that adhering to our morals can be difficult during challenging times.

Yes, history will judge us by how we respond during this moment, but I understand that you may be concerned about the immediate repercussions Beacon might face if we took this step. Indeed, even after last night's vote to workshop, Councilperson Mansfield stressed that the issue of Sanctuary is "very complicated."

As an addendum to Councilperson Ross's words on state's rights, I wanted to share this recent article from the LA Times:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-san-francisco-trump-20170131-story.html>

"UC Irvine Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, a constitutional law professor, said the Supreme Court has interpreted that the Constitution prevents the federal government from commandeering state and local governments to administer a federal law.

In 1997, the conservative majority on the high court ruled that the federal government could not force states to do background checks prior to gun sales. The late Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the ruling.

In a 2012 ruling on Obamacare, the court decided 7 to 2 that the federal government could not threaten states with loss of money for failing to comply with a Medicaid requirement.

Chemerinsky said the rulings strongly bolster lawsuits filed on behalf of sanctuary cities against Trump.

"The federal government can't force local governments to administer a program under the threat of losing federal money," Chemerinsky said.

Trump left unclear what funding is at stake and which cities and counties are

threatened. The administration would be on shaky legal ground going after money allocated for anything other than law enforcement, and taking funds away from police is a risky proposition for a new president promising to restore order in the streets. And even that, attorneys for the Legislature assert, takes an act of Congress."

I'm sure you will be doing your own research into the issue, but I also realize that you have many other matters to address. I hope you find this article helpful. Sanctuary is a growing movement and Beacon will not be standing alone.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Shiroishi
123 East Willow Street