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To: Civicorps Board of Directors

From: Dr. Tyfahra Singleton, Head of School
Tessa Nicholas, Deputy Director

Board Meeting Date: March 15, 2017

Subject: Resolution Affirming Civicorps Facilities & Programs Are a Sanctuary for All Students and Families

Action Requested **Approval of Resolution Affirming Facilities & Programs Are a Sanctuary for All Students and Families**

Background On January 31, 2017, the Executive Director, Alan Lessik, made a public statement regarding Civicorps' commitment to being a sanctuary school for all students and families. <http://www.cvcorps.org/sanctuary-school/>
The OUSD School Board reaffirmed the district sanctuary policy on December 14, 2016. <http://www.ousd.org/Page/15870>

Discussion Within the last few months, federal, state and local government officials throughout the country have proposed or passed laws and ordinances that propose stemming the tide of undocumented immigrants by cutting off opportunities for jobs, government benefits, housing, and imposing fines on companies employing undocumented immigrants, thereby increasing tensions in immigrant communities. In response to growing fears that governmental action towards immigrants will have a chilling effect on the educational rights of immigrant students and families, the proposed resolution state the Civicorps Board's position that all students have the right to attend school regardless of the immigration status of the child or of the child's family members. It also provides that students will not be discriminated against because of their actual or perceived immigrant status, will not seek information about immigration status, and will take steps to protect personally identifiable information from being used for immigration enforcement to the extent possible. Civicorps will distribute the resolution, develop an implementation plan, and will train staff about its contents.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF CIVICORPS CORPSMEMBER ACADEMY**

Affirming Facilities & Programs Are a Sanctuary for All Students and Families

WHEREAS: All students have a right to attend school free of fear, bullying, and discrimination;

WHEREAS: The Board of Directors embraces the diversity of our students and families and the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our school and strongly supports and encourages the participation of all parents and families in our schools;

WHEREAS: Our City and County, just like many major cities in the United States, is the home and workplace of many diverse communities, including persons of different faiths, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and varying immigration status;

WHEREAS: The 2016 presidential election has created an atmosphere of fear among immigrants, Muslims, and other vulnerable groups in Oakland;

WHEREAS: Within the last few months, federal, state, and local government officials throughout the country have proposed or passed laws and ordinances that propose stemming the tide of undocumented immigrants by cutting off opportunities for jobs, government benefits, housing, and imposing fines on companies employing undocumented immigrants, thereby increasing tensions in immigrant communities.

WHEREAS: Reports of potential raids by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE) have caused immigrant communities to fear sending and/or accompanying their children to schools and leaving their homes, even for needed medical services; and

WHEREAS: ICE activities in and around the school, the job training center, and the work sites would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational and training setting for students.

WHEREAS: The United States Supreme Court in 1982 ruled in Plyler v. Doe that public schools were prohibited from denying students access to elementary and secondary public education based on their immigration status, citing that children have little control over their immigration status, the lifelong harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and the constitutional equal protection rights;

WHEREAS: On November 22, 2016, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf reaffirmed the city's "absolute commitment" to being a sanctuary city and on December 14, 2016, Oakland Unified School District reaffirmed that "District facilities, programs are a sanctuary for children and adults".

WHEREAS: While there are not a significant number of undocumented students enrolled in Civicorps, approximately 50% of OUSD students speak a language other than English at home and approximately 50 native languages are spoken by families whose children are enrolled in OUSD;

WHEREAS: Reports of hate crimes directed at Muslims and others perceived as Middle Eastern or Muslim have increased in recent months;

WHEREAS: Bullying or discrimination, for any reason, is harmful to students' feelings of safety and belonging, as well as their academic success; and

WHEREAS: On January 31, 2016, the Executive Director of Civicorps made a public statement entitled “We are, and always will be, a Sanctuary School” and the Board of Directors intends to affirm the statement with the enactment of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That in response to a growing fear that reports of actual or possible ICE raids are having or will have a chilling effect on the educational rights of immigrant students and families, the Board of Directors, in solidarity with immigrant community organizations, hereby states its position that all students have the right to attend school regardless of the immigration status of the student or of the student’s family members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors state that all Civicorps students who register for the following services and meet the federal and state criteria, are entitled to receive all school services, including free lunch, free breakfast, and educational services, even if they or their family are undocumented and do not have a social security number and that no school staff shall take steps that would deny students access to education based on their immigration status or any steps that would “chill” the rights of these students to public education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board recognizes that students have a need to understand history and politics, and supports the academic freedom of teachers to both teach and discuss current events with students as aligned with learning standards and charter policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board declares its commitment that every Civicorps site be a welcoming place for all students and their families and encourages the Executive Director to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations and legal services organizations who provide resources for families facing deportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: In order to provide a public education, regardless of a student’s or family's immigration status, absent any applicable federal, state, local law or regulation or local ordinance or court decision, Civicorps shall abide by the following:

1. Civicorps personnel shall not treat students differently for residency determination purposes on the basis of their actual or perceived immigration status and shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services, including but, not limited to, the free and reduced lunch program, transportation and educational instruction.
2. Civicorps personnel shall review the list of documents that are currently used to establish residency and shall ensure that any required documents would not unlawfully bar or discourage a student who is undocumented or whose parents are undocumented from enrolling in or attending school.
3. Civicorps personnel shall not inquire about a student's immigration status, including requiring documentation of a student's legal status, such as asking for a green card or citizenship papers, at initial registration or at any other time unless it is for the benefit of the student and their ability to access paid job training opportunities and/or federal scholarship awards.
4. Civicorps personnel shall not make unreasonable inquiries from a student or his/her parents for the purpose of exposing the immigration status of the child or his/her family.

5. Civicorps personnel shall not require students to apply for Social Security numbers nor should the Civicorps require students to supply a Social Security number to be enrolled in the academic program.
6. If parent and or students have questions about their immigration status, school personnel shall not refer them to ICE but should instead refer them to community-based and legal organizations that provide resources for immigrant families and families facing deportation.
7. Because it is the general policy of Civicorps not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit, any request by ICE to visit a Civicorps site should be forwarded to the Executive Director's office for review, in consultation with Civicorps legal counsel, who, within legal boundaries, will take action to support students, families, and staff and will immediately notify the Oakland Immigrant Legal Representation and Rapid Response Network or similar organization.
8. All requests for information or documents by ICE should be forwarded to the Executive Director, who in consultation with Civicorps legal counsel, shall determine if the information and/or documents can be released to ICE.
9. Civicorps legal counsel, and other Civicorps personnel as designated by the Executive Director, will review the impact of changes in federal immigration laws programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and work to prevent and mitigate the negative impact on both students and employees from the collection or storage of any personally identifiable information for immigration enforcement purposes.
10. Civicorps personnel will take all reasonable measures so that other service providers that have access to student, family or employee information will also follow the actions described herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Civicorps Board of Directors joins the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education and the Boards of other California school districts and charter schools by adopting a resolution to ensure that our facilities and programs are sanctuaries for immigrant and vulnerable students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of March 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: 9

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 4

Phil Dillard, Board President, Civicorps



Alan Lessik, Executive Director, Civicorps

