

Resolution to Ban Face Masks and Require Identification

WHEREAS the federal government, through the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has launched broad & cruel immigration enforcement efforts, deploying personnel from various federal agencies, including those within the Department of Justice, as part of the Trump Administration's immigration enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS ICE and other federal officers have conducted operations while wearing face coverings, including gaiter and ski masks; and

WHEREAS several news outlets have reported incidents of individuals impersonating ICE officers to harass or detain others, which undermines public trust in law enforcement, especially among vulnerable individuals, and poses a threat to public safety, resulting in charges being filed against at least some such individuals, including for kidnapping and impersonating a police officer, after allegedly detaining a group of Latino men, impersonating an ICE officer on a university campus, and impersonating an ICE officer in connection with the sexual assault of a woman while threatening her with deportation and we continue to see these attacks geared towards immigrant workers, including persecution in their place of employment, which has in turn hurt many local and big businesses that rely on the immigrant workforce for their success and clientele;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls on the City of San José and other jurisdictions in Santa Clara County to ban the use of face coverings and require identification from federal law enforcement agencies operating within their jurisdiction and urges the Mayor of San José and members of the San José City Council to support the memo introduced to the San José City Council by Councilmember Peter Ortiz asking to develop an ordinance to ban the use of face coverings and require identification from federal law enforcement agencies operating within the boundaries of San José.