

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND WELCOMING UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT
MINORS FLEEING VIOLENCE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES

WHEREAS, Carrboro strives to be a compassionate and caring community and to create a welcoming environment for all people; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2014, the Board of Aldermen approved a resolution recognizing that Carrboro has vibrant and healthy immigrant communities; noting that support of immigrant communities is critical to preserving our legacy as a nation of immigrants; and establishing Immigrant Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2013, the Board of Aldermen approved a resolution in opposition to a discriminatory version of NC House Bill 184 that would have created a special driver's license denoting the holder's immigration status; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2013, the Board of Aldermen approved a resolution in support of the federal Uniting American Families Act, noting that an important goal of US immigration law is to facilitate family reunification and to enable families and individuals to reside legally in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of children and adolescents from Central American nations who are seeking refuge in the United States has risen dramatically over the past three years and, according to the US Department of Homeland Security, their immigration may result in the apprehension of 90,000 minors; and

WHEREAS, approximately three-quarters of the minors seeking refuge in the United States are fleeing extreme violence and poverty in their home countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; and

WHEREAS, Honduras has the world's highest murder rate, and El Salvador has the world's fourth highest murder rate; and

WHEREAS, any refugee who flees his or her country may consider expectations of safety and reunification with family members when determining a destination, making the United States an attractive option for these minors; and

WHEREAS, most of the minors entering the United States, including those coming to North Carolina, are returning to parents or other family members who are present in the United States; and

WHEREAS, between January 1, 2014, and August 31, 2014, approximately 1429 of these minors were placed in North Carolina, and many of these minors are reuniting with their North Carolina families who can care and provide for them; and

WHEREAS, these families are an important part of our community who should be welcomed and supported, and we should protect vulnerable children fleeing violence who seek safety in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION 1. The Board of Aldermen affirms that Carrboro is a welcoming community for minors seeking refuge from violence in their home countries and is a welcoming community for the sponsors of these minors.

SECTION 2. The Board of Aldermen requests that Congressman David Price encourage the Obama Administration and the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the thousands of minors seeking safety in the United States and being apprehended by the Border Patrol receive due process and legal representation in court hearings.

SECTION 3. The Board of Aldermen supports municipal and county efforts to welcome and provide services to minors seeking refuge from violence in their home countries and encourages continuing collaboration among governmental entities to support and protect these minors.

SECTION 4. The manager is directed to cooperate with other governmental entities and community partners to identify available resources to support efforts to welcome and provide services to minors in our community and to report to the Board of Aldermen with information about such resources by January 31, 2015.

SECTION 5. Moreover, the Board of Aldermen affirms the longstanding right of children to equal educational opportunities, including the right to attend public elementary and secondary schools in the county in which they reside, without regard to their immigration status.

SECTION 6. The clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Congressman David Price, the chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, the chair of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education, the mayor of the Town of Chapel Hill, and the mayor of the Town of Hillsborough.