

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS PROGRAM FOR GUATEMALA

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro has long shown support for its immigrant communities, including many immigrants from Central America; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Homeland Security may grant “temporary protected status,” including employment authorization and protection from deportation, to immigrants in the United States who are unable to return safely to their home countries because of violence, natural disaster, or other extraordinary conditions; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2014, the Town Council approved a resolution declaring Carrboro to be a welcoming community for minors seeking refuge from violence in their home countries, and urging the federal government to ensure that those seeking safety in the United States receive due process and legal representation; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2017, then Mayor Lydia Lavelle joined a coalition of 32 mayors from across the United States calling on the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to extend the Temporary Protected Status program, noting that deportation of beneficiaries would separate families and bring instability to our communities; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2017, the Town Council approved a resolution supporting the expansion of the Temporary Protected Status program and urged the Department of Homeland Security to renew the program for Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, as of November 10, 2022, nations with Temporary Protected Status designations include Afghanistan, Burma, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is estimated to be home to the 9th largest population of Temporary Protected Status holders in the United States; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by Carolina Demography found that over 25,000 Guatemalians live in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, these families are an integral part of the community who should be welcomed and supported, and we should protect vulnerable persons who seek safety in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carrboro Town Council renews its support for the Temporary Protected Status program and urges the Department of Homeland Security to designate Guatemala as a Temporary Protected Status country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council asks the Town Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Valerie Foushee.

This the _____ day of _____ 2023.