



October 31, 2017

Abel Guillen, President Pro-Tem, Oakland City Council and City Council Members Dan Kalb, Lynette Gibson-McElhane, Annie Campbell-Washington, Noel Gallo, Desley Brooks, Larry Reid and Rebecca Kaplan.

Re: Border Wall Prohibition File# 16-1293

Dear Honorable Members of the Council,

Oakland Privacy, a citizens coalition that works to defend the right to privacy and enhance public transparency and oversight, writes to you today in strong support of the Border Wall Contracting Prohibition ordinance that will be before you on November 7.

The President's proposed 2000 mile long border "wall", as presented in his campaign accompanied by hateful rhetoric directed at immigrants and later as the subject of Executive Order 13767, as stated in the staff report, would be an economic, environmental and social equity catastrophe. The City Council recognized this and passed Resolution 86662 in March of 2017 condemning the border wall and directing the City Manager to develop this contracting ordinance. The City Council has also declared Oakland a city of sanctuary via Resolution 63950 in 1986.

This ordinance prohibits new or amended contracts for the procurement of goods or services from border wall contractors. The City of Oakland has a similar existing prohibition on doing business with nuclear weapons contractors and may be considering a prohibition on ICE detention camp contractors in the future.

The City of Oakland exercises agency over how municipal resources are expended and should take action to ensure those decisions are consistent with the values of the residents of Oakland. 27% of Oakland's residents are foreign-born, representing more than 105,000 Oaklanders. 21% of the City's population claimed Latino descent in the last census with family connections to Mexico, Central or South America, the countries targeted by the border wall project. Oakland is proud of its diversity and internationalism and the contribution of its Latino communities to the vitality of the City.

Punishing hard working Oaklanders, ripping apart families and diverting badly-needed resources to constructing a 2000 mile long tribute to xenophobia, are no substitute for federal immigration policy reform. The funds devoted to this project are badly needed in America's cities and towns to provide social services and a safety net.

With the public resources entrusted to it and on behalf of Oakland's status as a sanctuary city and a city of refuge for all that is dedicated to social justice and equity, the City of Oakland should not collaborate with the building of the border wall or reward those who do with city contracts. In doing City business, we make choices that reflect the values of our City and the majority of its residents.

Please support the Border Wall Contracting Prohibition Ordinance.

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