TOWN OF WEST NEW YORK COUNTY OF HUDSON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE TOWN OF WEST NEW YORK'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING A FAIR AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Town of West New York has always been a diverse community comprised of residents whose families originated from a wide variety of cultures and nations; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West New York values its ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity, which is a source of our strength and ensures that all our residents can live and pursue their livelihoods in peace and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, foreign-and domestic-born West New York residents have been and remain a vital part of our vibrant, special community that we all take great pride in; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West New York is committed to equal, respectful and dignified treatment of all people regardless of their immigration status and to remain a welcoming community, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West New York Police Department strives to follow a community policing policy, in which the law is upheld and enforced while promoting effective relationships and collaborative partnerships between law enforcement and the public, so together, the police and residents can be committed to making this a safer and stronger community for all; and

WHEREAS, the cooperation of the Town of West New York's immigrant communities is essential to prevent and solve crimes and maintain public order, safety and security in the entire Town and is especially critical to the success of community policing which depends on trust with every community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners commits to pursuing a policy agenda that affirms civil and human rights, and ensures that those targeted on the basis of race, religion or immigration status can turn to government without fear of recrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of West New York recognize that unlawful discrimination impedes the social and economic progress of a community by preventing its residents and visitors from fully contributing to the cultural, spiritual, social, and economic life of the community, and that positive contributions by all of the Town of West New York's residents continue to play an essential role in the community's growth, vitality, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the targeting of immigrants undermines our democracy and our common humanity and degrades life everywhere but especially for the residents of a proud and richly diverse Town such as the Town of West New York; and

WHEREAS, the identification and reporting of immigrants based upon their status alone, serves no municipal purpose and unduly burdens and diverts municipal resources; as well as disrupts and interferes with the Town's duty to deliver basic municipal services such as healthcare, education and police protection; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners endorse the current policy of the Town of West New York Police Department to not approach anyone for the sole purpose of determining their immigration status, and we further desire that this continue to be the policy of the Town of West New York Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the West New York Board of Education formally showed the school district's commitment to provide a quality free public education to all school-age children who live in the district, regardless of the student's immigration status, as required by law by passing A "Safe Zone" Resolution on February 8, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of West New York publicly express by passage of this Resolution that the Town is committed to ensuring that residents and visitors can feel welcome, safe, and able to fully participate in, and contribute positively to, our community's social and economic life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of West New York do hereby encourage all residents of Town of West New York to renew their efforts in reaching out and welcoming all those who live in and visit our great community.