



February 6, 2024

Huntington Beach City Council
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Re: Agenda Item #14 - Statement of Solidarity with Texas, submitted by Mayor Pro Tem Burns

Dear Members of the Huntington Beach City Council,

We write in strong opposition to agenda item #14, the proposed "statement of solidarity" with Gov. Greg Abbott's administration in Texas and his racist, anti-immigrant crusade.

Basic human decency requires that all people be respectful and courteous to their neighbors. The proposed statement would demonstrate the Council's inability to be good neighbors to the communities that border Huntington Beach with large immigrant and refugee populations. These include Costa Mesa and the communities of Little Saigon, which are home to numerous immigrant and refugee residents, at least 50,000 of whom are not naturalized.¹ The insinuation that our immigrant and refugee community members neighbors embody "the destruction of the United States" is not only offensive and false, but also advances no tangible improvements to the lives of Huntington Beach's residents. Using the Council dias as a bully pulpit to spew vitriolic rhetoric does nothing to house those without roofs over their heads, ensure workers can afford rent, or improve shared community spaces for everyone to enjoy.

The "rogue bully" in this situation is not those who would seek to make our neighborhoods more welcoming and prosperous for all, but rather the Huntington Beach City Council, should its members choose to support agenda item #14. We hope that members of the Council can instead focus on the task of governing with decency and sound judgment, as the residents of Huntington Beach and Orange County deserve.

Sincerely,

Mai Nguyen Do
Research & Policy Manager
Harbor Institute for Immigrant & Economic Justice

¹ Derived from U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2022 5-Year Estimates.