A RESOLUTION declaring Seattle a city of refuge urging fair and impartial enforcement of federal immigration law as it pertains to persons who fit the definitions of refugee as defined in the Refugee Act of 1980 and in particular those of Central America, and recognizing the courage and personal conviction of Seattle residents who offer sanctuary to such persons.

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RESOLUTION 27402

- A RESOLUTION declaring Seattle a city of refuge urging fair ard impartial enforcement of federal immigration law as it pertains to persons who fit the definitions of refugee as defined in the Refugee Act of 1980 and in particular those of Central America, and recognizing the courage and personal conviction of Seattle residents who offer sanctuary to such persons.
- WHEREAS, the United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees has defined the political refugee as "any person who, owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or a political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country," and
- WHEREAS, the United States Congress, recognizing this country's historic and moral tradition of providing safe haven for those fleeing political and religious persecution, has adopted the language of the United Nations Protocol in passing its Refugee Act of 1980 (8 USC 1101 (a) (42), and
- WHEREAS, the United States Government has openly and generously provided refuge, under the Refugee Act of 1980 and previous immigration law, in the cases of persons fleeing generalized civil violence or political instability in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Iran, Laos, Nicaragua, Uganda, Poland, and Viet Nam by means of according them Extended Voluntary Departure status or its equivalent, and in such cases as the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Lebanon, and Romania readily granted refuge through a recognized special status, and
- whereas, it is our belief based upon extensive testimony that many persons fleeing Central America do so because of a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of political opinion or membership in a particular group, and
- WHEREAS, the citizens and elected officials of Seattle, mindful of the generosity of our nation and the plight of Guatemalans and Salvadorans, have implored the United States government to provide Extended Voluntary Departure status ("temporary safe haven") to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, and have enacted City Council Resolution 27035 to articulate this plea, and
- WHEREAS, fewer than three percent of those applicants from Guatemala and El Salvador whose cases were considered in 1984 have been granted political asylum by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the United States government has refused to grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to these persons, and
- WHEREAS, those Seattle citizens who have provided sanctuary to Central American refugees have done so in an open and public fashion, believing as a matter of conscience that this is a necessary and humanitarian action, and
- WHEREAS, citizens engaged in refugee work elsewhere in the United States, believing there to be a grave threat to the lives of the refugees under their protection, and to the civil rights of the refugees' United States sponsors, have undertaken political and legal action to defend both the refugees and the citizens providing sanctuary as in "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Meese et al..." and

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WHEREAS, there is evidence that the present policy of the United States government toward persons fleeing Central America is discriminatory and contrary to our policy in similar cases, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

That the City of Seattle declares itself a City of Refuge in that, without endorsing any of the contending forces in any country, it reaffirms the American tradition of providing refuge to law abiding persons who have fled their native country for fear of losing their lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle urgently reaffirms Resolution 27035 calling on the United States Government to grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to Salvadorean and Guatemalan Refugees to allow them to remain in the United States until conditions stabilize in their homelands, and a safe return can be assured, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle consider filing an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the plantiffs in the civil case of "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Meese et al" (C8-3255-RFP) filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on May 7, 1985, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle call upon the Washington State Delegation to Congress to request Congress to investigate the application of the Refugee Act of 1980 to the situation of Salvadoran, and Guatemalan refugees, and that this investigation examine the purported use of informers, the questioning of children, and the unauthorized inspection of private documents, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle call upon the Washington State Delegation to Congress to request Congress to investigate the applicability of the Refugee Act of 1980 and the grant of Extended Voluntary Departure to Nicaraguans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.

That the City of Seattle recognizes the courage and personal conviction that has caused many of its residents to offer sanctuary to Central American refugees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City Council finds that immigration and refugee policy is a matter of Federal jurisdiction; that Federal employees, not City employees, should be considered responsible for implementation of immigration and refugee policy; and further that the City Council directs employees to exclude refugee status as a consideration in their daily activities and routine dealings with the public, with the proviso that this directive should not be construed as sanctioning the violation of any law or encouraging interference in law enforcement efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle extend an invitation to other U.S. cities to join in urging that the U.S. Government grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to individuals fleeing the generalized violence of Guatemala and El Salvador, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That if any provision of this Resolution is declared by a court of component jurisdiction to be contrary to the Constitution of the United States or of the State or the applicability thereof to any

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agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Resolution and the applicability thereof to any other agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Seattle this 13th day of Tamucan, 1986, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 13th day of Tamucan, 1986.

sident/f the City Council

Filed by me this 13th day of January, 1936.

ATTEST: Laig Souls

City Comptraller and City Clerk

BY: Therena Dunbar Deputy

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Charles Royer, Mayor

A RESOLUTION declaring Seattle a city of refuge for all refugees as defined in the Refugee Act of 1980, urging fair and impartial enforcement of federal immigration law as it pertains to such refugees and in particular those of Central America, and recognizing the courage and personal conviction of Seattle residents who offer refuge to such persons.

Introduced: JAN 1 3 1986	By: Kracbel
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RESOLUTION 27402

A RESOLUTION declaring Seattle a city of refuge for all refugees as defined in the Refugee Act of 1980, urging fair and impartial enforcement of federal immigration law as it pertains to such refugees and in particular those of Central America, and recognizing the courage and personal conviction of Seattle residents who offer refuge to such passons.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees has defined the political refugee as "any person who, owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or a political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country," and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, recognizing this country's historic and moral tradition of providing safe haven for those fleeing political and religious persecution, has adopted the language of the United Nations Protocol in passing its Refugee Act of 1980 (8 USC 1101 (a) 42), and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has openly and generously provided refuge, under the Refugee Act of 1980 and previous immigration law, in the cases of persons fleeing generalized civil violence or political instability in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Iran, Laos, Nicaragua, Uganda, Poland, and Viet, Nam by means of according them Extended Voluntary Departure status or its equivalent, and in such cases as the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Lebanon, and Romania readily granted refuge through a recognized special status, and

WHEREAS, it is our belief based upon extensive testimony that many persons fleeing Central America do so because of a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of political opinion or membership in a particular group, and

WHEREAS, the citizens and elected officials of Seattle, mindful of the generosity of our nation and the plight of Guatemalans and Salvadorans, have implored the United States government to provide Extended Voluntary Departure status ("temporary safe haven") to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, and have enacted City Council Resolution 27035 to articulate this plea, and

WHEREAS, despite these and other pleas, fewer than three percent of those applicants from Guatemala and El Salvador whose cases were considered in 1984 have been granted political asylum by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the United States government has refused to grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to these persons, and

WHEREAS, those Seattle citizens who have provided sanctuary to Central American refugees have done so in an open and public fashion, believing as a matter of conscience that this is a necessary and humanitarian action, and

WHEREAS, citizens engaged in refugee work elsewhere in the United States, believing there to be a grave threat to the lives of the refugees under their protection, and to the civil rights of the refugees' United States sponsors, have undertaken political and legal action to defend both the refugees and the citizens providing sanctuary as in "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Meese et al..." and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the present policy of the United States government toward persons fleeing Central America may be discriminatory and contrary to our policy in similar cases, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

That the City of Seattle declares itself a City of Refuge in that, without endorsing any of the contending forces in any country, it goes on record in opposition to the deportation of known law-abiding refugees who have fled their homelands for fear of losing their lives, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle urgently reaffirms Resolution 27035 that the United States government grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to individuals fleeing Guatemala and El Salvador because of a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of political opinion or membership in a particular group, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.

That the City of Seattle consider filing an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the plantiffs in the civil case of "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. vs. Meese et al" (C8-3255-RFP) filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on May 7, 1985, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle call upon the Washington State Delegation to Congress to request Congress to investigate the application of the Refuges Act of 1980 to the situation of Salvadoran, Nicaraguan and Guatemalan refugees, and that this investigation examine the purported use of informers, the questioning of children, and the unauthorized inspection of private documents, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle recognizes the courage and personal conviction that has caused many of its residents to offer refuge to Central American refugees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City Council finds that immigration and refugee policy is a matter of Federal jurisdiction; that Federal employees, not City employees, should be considered responsible for implementation of immigration and refugee policy; and further that the City Council directs employees to exclude refugee status as a consideration in their daily activities and routine dealings with the public, with the proviso that this directive should not be construed as sanctioning the violation of any law or encouraging interference in law enforcement efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the City of Seattle extend an invitation to other U.S. cities to join in urging that the U.S. government grant Extended Voluntary Departure status to individuals fleeing Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador due to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of political opinion or membership in a particular group, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.

That if any provision of this Resolution is declared by a court of component jurisdiction to be contrary to the Constitution of the United States or of the State or the applicability thereof to any agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Resolution and the applicability thereof to any other agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

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ADOPTED by th	ne City Council	of the City	of Seattle this	seere
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tication of its add	option this	day of	,	1986.
		Preside	ent of the City	Council
Filed by me t	this d	ay of	, 1986.	
	ATTEST			
	711291	City Co	mptroller and Ci	ty Clerk
	BY	· •		
	A. Carrier		Deputy	
THE MAYOR CONCURRIN	1G:			
Charles Royer, Mayo	or			
Chaires Royer, may				

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COMMITTEE(S) REFERRED TO:	
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