

Yolo supervisors resolve to keep county ‘safe and welcoming’ for all

By [Sarah Dowling](#), Woodland Daily Democrat

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In the midst of a changing political climate, Yolo County residents shared their fears and expressed their gratitude to supervisors who adopted a resolution affirming the county as a “safe and welcoming community” for all.

The unanimous vote on Tuesday was met with an outpouring of support from community members, who one-by-one approached supervisors — solidifying the importance of such a measure.

Melissa Moreno, an ethnic studies professor at Woodland Community College, spoke from her experience as an educator.

“As a professor I have been receiving a lot of concerns from students across all levels,” said Moreno, speaking specifically to deportation fears. There are even stirrings at the elementary school level, where kids worry for their futures. Parents, including Moreno, are concerned about how this is affecting their children.

Davis resident Emily Hill echoed this, stating that a friend’s young son was told by other students that his father would be deported.

“Even 8 year olds are saying it,” she emphasized.

UC Davis Professor Brad Jones explained this further.

“Immigrants don’t live in isolation,” he said. “There is a strong prevalence of mixed-generation households and so it is not just immigrants who are terrified right now, it is also maybe second and third generation family members who are with them.”

The resolution itself touches upon these themes, stating “the current national climate has caused residents of Yolo County a heightened level of fear, concern, uncertainty and confusion related to the treatment of those perceived as noncitizens who are lawfully or unlawfully present in Yolo County and the County’s institutions of learning.”

Aside from deportation fears, the resolution is also a response to a recent hate crime in Davis.

“We drafted this resolution in response to calls from community members who share our concern with the recent vandalism at the Davis Islamic Center and the climate of fear from new federal policies,” stated Supervisor Don Saylor.

Saylor partnered with Supervisor Jim Provenza to bring the resolution forward. The pair presented the item to the rest of the Board on Tuesday.

“It is a strong message and it communicates our values and it outlines what we hope is core throughout our county operations that every person has dignity, that we value each of the individuals who reside within Yolo County,” Saylor said.

The supervisor also explained that the intent of the resolution is “encompassing,” all groups regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or religion “all of us are treated the same and have the opportunity to thrive.”

Meanwhile, Provenza highlighted the strength of the Muslim community — a few of them were recognized during their presentation, while dozens of others showed up in support of the resolution.

“They have been the first ones to step up in any hate incident, any act of violence against anyone or when anyone’s civil rights have been violated,” he said. “Muslims, unfortunately, are often the target now for hate incidents.”

Provenza explained that targets can change, but supporting civil rights throughout the community is key. Yolo County has a chance to set a good example for other communities in doing this.

“Why this resolution is particularly important is people take their cue from those at the top,” he said.

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