

RESOLUTION NO. 52,596-N.S.

DECLARING BERKELEY A CITY OF REFUGE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

WHEREAS, the Bay Area has become a place of refuge for thousands of Central American Refugees who are fleeing the brutality of the governments of their own countries of Guatemala and El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, these refugees have a well-founded fear of persecution if returned to their country of origin; and

WHEREAS, various churches, meetings and other religious groups, with the support of many individuals within the university and labor communities, and the community at large, have responded to the needs of these refugees with advocacy, protection and support; and

WHEREAS, these groups and individuals have acted in a way they consider morally and legally correct and in the best tradition of our country, which was founded on the principles of providing a safe haven for those fleeing political oppression; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley, on November 10, 1971, stated it "will support any congregation in Berkeley which engages in sanctuary" (for those who refused to fight in the Vietnam war).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley reaffirms its support for the principle of sanctuary and for those groups which engage in this time-honored tradition of humanitarian assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley commends the following groups which have declared public sanctuary for Central American refugees:

Bartimaeus Community Church

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

First Unitarian Church

Newman Hall/Holy Spirit Parish

The Religious Society of Friends, Berkeley Monthly Meeting

St. John's Presbyterian Church

St. Joseph the Workman Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting

Trinity Methodist Church

Unitas House

University Lutheran Chapel

The Graduate Assembly at the University of California at Berkeley

The Barrington Hall Co-op

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley expresses its support for any other group which chooses to declare public sanctuary for Central American refugees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of Berkeley be encouraged to work with the existing sanctuaries to provide the necessary housing, transportation, food, medical aid, legal assistance and friendship that will be needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no employee of the City of Berkeley violate the established sanctuaries by assisting in investigations, public or clandestine, by engaging in or assisting with arrests for alleged violation of immigration laws by the refugees in the sanctuaries or by those offering sanctuary, or by refusing established public services to the established sanctuaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sanctuary originally offered by the churches be expanded to include the entire city and that Berkeley become A CITY OF REFUGE; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley extends an invitation to the other cities of this country to join in the offer of sanctuary so that the United States of America may once more serve as a place of refuge for oppressed people.

Copies sent 2/26/85

To: Mayor  
Public Safety  
City Manager

**RESOLUTION**

No. 52,596 N.S.

Dated February 19, 1985

Adopted by the Council of the City of Berkeley by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Chandler, Denton, Fukson, Hester, Jelinek, Shirek, Skinner, and President Newport.

Noes: Councilmember Lashley.

Abstaining: None.

Absent: None.

*Engineer Gene Newport*  
Mayor and President of the Council

Attest *Edythe Campbell*  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council