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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 19, 2019

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## **Santa Cruz Mayor Reaffirms Sanctuary City Status While President Trump Threatens to Remove Millions of Immigrants**

SANTA CRUZ, CA – Mayor Martine Watkins, with the unanimous support of the City Council, reaffirms the City of Santa Cruz’s commitment to diversity, inclusion and status as a sanctuary City in response to President Trump’s recent threat to remove millions of immigrants.

“I want the people and residents of the city of Santa Cruz to be reminded that we are a sanctuary City. We prioritize our resources to serve and protect our community,” stated Mayor Watkins. “We want every resident to feel safe coming forward to our law enforcement without fear of deportation.”

Santa Cruz Deputy Chief of Police, Rick Martinez, added, “Despite immigration status, our community members should be free from unwarranted intimidation, detention and should not have to live in fear. All community members must feel secure in seeking police services during times of crisis or when reporting criminal activity. Our existing department policies and policing practices fully support Mayor Watkins’ affirmation.”

The Santa Cruz City Council, on February 28, 2017, adopted an ordinance determining and declaring that the City has long embraced and welcomed individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, religious and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population. The ordinance also enacted specific procedures, consistent with the City’s commitment to social justice and inclusion, prohibiting City resources from being used to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law, including assisting with or participating in any immigration operation or joint operation.

The City of Santa Cruz is the county seat and largest city in Santa Cruz County. The City serves over 63,000 residents with full services including police, utility, waste, recreation, and library programs. Santa Cruz is a Charter City governed by a seven-member Council.

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