

RESOLUTION NO. 104-25

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
AFFIRMING THE RIGHTS OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS AND OPPOSING
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DENATURALIZATION EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond recognizes the inherent rights of all individuals to due process, fairness, and protection under the law, regardless of their status as naturalized or native-born citizens; and

WHEREAS, naturalized citizens have legally and rightfully earned their U.S. citizenship and must be afforded the same rights, protections, and access to legal processes as any other citizen of the United States; and

WHEREAS, denaturalization proceedings that deprive naturalized citizens of their fundamental rights to legal representation, due process, and fair trial are discriminatory and undermine the civil rights protections guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division has actively pursued denaturalization through its **Denaturalization Section**, whose activities and case patterns are documented in its publicly available report ([DOJ Civil Division Denaturalization Section Cases](#)); and

WHEREAS, there is concern that denaturalization may be used selectively and punitively, including against individuals based on political expression, national origin, religion, or advocacy positions; and

WHEREAS, individuals who advocate for justice—including those speaking out for Palestinian rights, transgender rights, or against systemic injustice—have expressed concerns that their political expression may be mischaracterized (e.g., as anti-Semitism or threats to national security) and used to target or silence them through legal retaliation, including threats to their citizenship status; and

WHEREAS, such actions reflect broader patterns of political and social discrimination that can be weaponized against those challenging the status quo for justice, equality, and human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

1. Condemns any federal or state actions that discriminate against naturalized citizens, including actions that strip them of their civil rights, citizenship, or access to due process.
2. Affirms the City's commitment to supporting naturalized citizens and ensuring their equal treatment under the law.
3. Urges all levels of government to ensure that naturalized citizens have full access to legal protections, due process, and the right to legal counsel in any proceedings relating to their citizenship.
4. Calls upon the U.S. Congress and federal government to enact and enforce legislation that prevents unlawful or politically motivated denaturalization and upholds the principles of justice, equality, and constitutional rights.
5. Recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of individuals, including those advocating for Palestinian and transgender rights, from politically motivated accusations, such as anti-Semitism when such accusations are used to silence protected speech or strip individuals of their rights.
6. Stands firm in its commitment to upholding freedom of speech, public advocacy, and the right to peaceful protest without fear of legal or political retaliation.
7. Commits to raising public awareness of the rights of naturalized citizens and individuals advocating for justice, and to defending these rights in public discourse and policy.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held on July 1, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bana, Brown, Jimenez, Robinson,
Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

Approved: (SEAL)

EDUARDO MARTINEZ
Mayor

Approved as to form:

DAVE ALESHIRE
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa } : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 104-25**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on July 1, 2025.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond