

RESOLUTION NO. 20051215-055

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council values the dignity of all its residents regardless of immigration status, race and/or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council recognizes the cultural diversity of all its residents, including its immigrant population, as a community asset and strongly discourages discrimination in any and all forms; and

WHEREAS the Austin City Council both recognizes and values the economic, social, and cultural contributions immigrants have made to the city of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the media have been reporting the existence and planned formation of, armed groups of private individuals who engage in activities to prevent the entry of people migrating to the United States, and activities that seek out immigrants residing in the United States with the intent of facilitating their removal; and

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council strongly disapproves of groups of private individuals that aim to take the enforcement of immigration laws in Austin, into their own hands; and

WHEREAS, because the activities of groups like the Minutemen involve civilians who are not trained to enforce the laws of the United States, there is a real threat that these groups may engage in discriminatory actions and racial profiling, as well as the potential for the use of force or the threat of force in a way that violates the constitutional rights of citizens and non-citizens alike; and

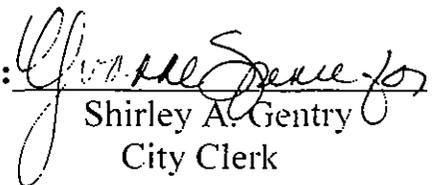
WHEREAS, this resolution will address activities within the City of Austin, because this issue is also of local concern; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The Austin City Council believes in a person's right to assemble and demonstrate their right of free speech; but is opposed to the activities of the Minutemen and groups like the Minutemen who may exploit this First Amendment right to the detriment of the constitutional rights of others.

ADOPTED: December 15, 2005

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk