

RESOLUTION NO. 23-172

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, URGING CONGRESS TO REVIEW THE GUIDELINES ON U.S. FOREIGN AID TO THE PHILIPPINES IN LIGHT OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO REMOVE ILLEGAL GATES OF ONG ON PUBLIC ROADS

WHEREAS, the City Council is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of citizens of the world including those of our sister City of Paranaque, Philippines.

WHEREAS, the City Council has learned of legal and human rights violations occurring in the Philippines, including the installation and placement of illegal gates of Ong on public roads, and the failure of the Philippine government to remove them. The illegal gates of Ong are denying Philippine citizens access to their public roads for daily needs, education, and emergency access, and affecting the local economy.

WHEREAS, the U.S. sends foreign aid to the Philippines. Continuing to do so without first reviewing the foreign aid policy and guidelines to ensure that U.S. aid is not being used to further these violations would set a dangerous precedent suggesting that the United States endorses support of legal and human rights violations such as the installation of the Ong's gates on public roads. Further, Congress should consider ways to structure the foreign aid policy so as to put pressure on the Philippine government to rectify these violations without causing further detriment to the citizens of the Philippines.

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Nanette Barragan is a U.S. Congresswoman representing California's 44th Congressional District, which includes the City of Carson within its district lines. Based on the foregoing, the City Council sees fit to authorize sending a message to Congresswoman Barragan to urge her colleagues in the U.S. Congress to review the foreign aid policy and guidelines to the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Council hereby urges Congress to review the U.S. policy and guidelines on foreign aid to the Philippines to (i) determine whether modifications need be made to ensure that U.S. foreign aid is not being used to further legal or human rights violations in the Philippines such as the illegal placement, installation, or maintenance of gates of Ong on public roads, and (ii) consider ways to structure U.S. aid so as to pressure, encourage or incentivize the Philippine government to rectify these violations without causing further detriment to the Philippine citizens.

SECTION 3. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán has the authority to review foreign aid policy and voice concerns as the U.S. representative for California’s 44th congressional district, which encompasses the City of Carson. The City Council seeks to communicate these concerns to Congress via Congresswoman Barragán. Accordingly, the City Council authorizes and directs staff to prepare and send a letter, signed by the Mayor, to Congresswoman Nanette Barragán, communicating these concerns and enclosing a copy of this resolution.

SECTION 4. The City Council declares that, should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Resolution be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Resolution as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

[signatures on the following page]

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 17th day of October, 2023, at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Carson, California.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY OF CARSON:

Sunny K. Soltani, City Attorney

Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dr. Khaleah K. Bradshaw, City Clerk