

144 legal ALIENS

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Santa Cruz City Council OKs policy on immigration arrests

SANTA CRUZ — City Council members Tuesday unanimously passed a policy Tuesday denouncing "random" detentions and arrests of Hispanic residents by federal immigration agents.

The policy says migrant and undocumented workers "pay the full range of taxes" but "receive few of the social-service benefits for which their dollars pay."

Council members Arnold Levine and Katy Sears-Williams supported the resolution, but only after registering complaints about a similar resolution proposed by two Hispanic groups representing undocumented workers, the Beach Flats' La Familia Center and Migrant Media Education Project.

Levine objected to a section of the

Beach Flats/Migrant Media proposal that stated migrant and undocumented farm laborers pay "the full range of taxes, including state and federal income tax" but "receive few social service benefits."

Levine said he "doubted very much" the laborers pay state and federal income tax, but receive few social services.

The La Familia/Migrant Education proposal "maybe truthfully, maybe not," puts the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) "in a poor light," Levine told council members.

However, Levine did not object to passing the alternate proposal — lifted from a Board of Supervisors' resolution — that also recognizes that farm laborers do not receive full benefits for their tax dollars.

In casting her vote for the proposal, Sears-Williams said, "I will vote for it, but I really think it is simply making a statement, not a difference."

The approved proposal says the council "demands" the INS "strictly protect the constitutional rights of all people regardless of race, religion, ethnic background, etc."

The proposal was passed following complaints about tactics used by the INS in making arrests of illegal aliens.

The policy says INS pickups of illegal aliens in unemployment lines, social services offices, churches, soup lines and local businesses "intimidate people from making use of essential services."