



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

Res 31926

Record No.: Res 31926

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 2

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 01/13/2020

Final Action: 02/03/2020

**Title:** A RESOLUTION reaffirming Seattle as a welcoming city, expressing the Seattle City Council's solidarity with Seattle's South Asian community regardless of religion and caste, and opposing India's National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Uploaded By: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

### History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	01/13/2020	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
1	Council President's Office	01/13/2020	sent for review	City Council			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council						
1	City Council	01/13/2020	referred	City Council			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council						
1	City Council	01/21/2020	held				Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Motion carried, and the Resolution (Res) was held until February 3, 2020 by the following vote:						
	<b>Notes:</b> Motion was made by Councilmember Herbold and duly seconded, to hold Resolution 31926 until February 3, 2020.						
	In Favor: 5 Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Strauss						
	Opposed: 2 Councilmember Pedersen, Councilmember Sawant						

1 City Council 02/03/2020 adopted as amended Pass

Action Text: The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:

Notes: *Councilmember Pedersen left the Council Chamber at 3:34 p.m.*

ACTION 1:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31926.

ACTION 2:

Motion was made by Councilmember Lewis, duly seconded and carried, to amend Resolution 31926, Section 2, by substituting the second sentence, as shown in the underlined and strike through language below:

Section 2. The Seattle City Council opposes the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Act in India, and finds these policies to be discriminatory to Muslims, oppressed castes, women, indigenous, and LGBT people. The Seattle City Council urges the United States Congress to (a) support legislation censuring the Republic of India for adopting these policies and (b) call for the Parliament of India to uphold the Indian constitution by repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, and to stopping the National Register of Citizens, and take-taking steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees.

ACTION 3:

Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31926 as amended.

In Favor: 5 Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Morales, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember Sawant, Councilmember Strauss

Opposed: 0

Absent(NV): 1 Councilmember Pedersen

2 City Clerk 02/03/2020 attested by City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31926

A RESOLUTION reaffirming Seattle as a welcoming city, expressing the Seattle City Council's solidarity with Seattle's South Asian community regardless of religion and caste, and opposing India's National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act.

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council supports democratic rights for all peoples, and opposes religious and ethnonationalist discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the far-right Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been criticized for promoting violence against religious minorities, silencing dissent, and actions which earned Prime Minister Modi the nickname "the Butcher of Gujarat," a reference to the 2002 massacre - when Narendra Modi was Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat - in which an estimated 2,000 people were killed in anti-Muslim violence, and many Muslim women were targeted for rape and other forms of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2019, the Indian parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which the BJP government claims will help refugees fleeing religious persecution from neighboring countries, but which blatantly discriminates, allowing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be updated for citizenship based on religion, favoring Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian immigrants, while excluding Muslim people; and

WHEREAS, the CAA is the first instance of religion being used as a criterion for Indian citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, Modi's right-wing government published an updated NRC, requiring nearly two million people in the northeastern state of Assam to prove with

1 documentary evidence their Indian citizenship or face detention at mass prisons and  
2 detention camps that the Indian government has begun to build and fill; and

3 WHEREAS, most Indians lack documentation such as birth certificates to prove citizenship, and  
4 a nationwide expansion of the NRC could strip hundreds of millions of people  
5 (disproportionately Muslim, oppressed castes, women, indigenous and LGBT  
6 communities) left out of the CAA of their citizenship rights with no option to be re-  
7 naturalized; and

8 WHEREAS, the New York Times reported on December 22, 2019 that “The Indian home  
9 minister, Amit Shah, has vowed in speeches to expand the checks used in Assam to other  
10 states and then use the citizenship law to purge India of ‘infiltrators’ and ‘termites’”; and

11 WHEREAS, protests in India against the CAA and the NRC in December 2019 have faced  
12 repression including reports that in the state of Uttar Pradesh police fatally fired live  
13 ammunition at demonstrators and arrested thousands, and reports that police smashed up  
14 Muslim homes in in cities such as Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad,  
15 Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Sambhal, Firozabad, and Rampur; and

16 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2020, ordinary people across India demonstrated against the policies  
17 of the Modi government, with protests against the CAA and NRC in conjunction with a  
18 one-day strike called by ten trade unions opposing privatizations and neoliberalism and  
19 also in conjunction with strikes and demonstrations in rural communities against the  
20 oppression and exploitation of farmers, showing that a united movement of working  
21 people has the potential power to resist and defeat authoritarianism; and

22 WHEREAS, the general strike in India on January 8, 2020 was the largest strike in the history of  
23 the world, with an estimated 250 million workers, farmers, and rural laborers stopping

1 work, and joining protests against poverty, exploitation, discrimination, and  
2 authoritarianism; and

3 WHEREAS, in September 2019, President Trump hosted a “Howdy Modi” rally in Houston  
4 alongside Prime Minister Modi, in what the Washington Post ominously reported was,  
5 “the largest-ever gathering with a foreign political leader in the United States,”  
6 demonstrating the growing threat of far-right politics around the world; and

7 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council believes it is the duty of ordinary people to oppose the  
8 dangerous rise of the far right everywhere in the world, and believes that the rapidly  
9 expanding authoritarianism of the Modi government in nuclear-armed India is of concern,  
10 not only to the millions of Muslims, oppressed castes, women, indigenous, and LGBT  
11 people in India, but also to Seattle’s South Asian immigrant community and those  
12 opposed to Trump and the right wing in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, the Indian American Muslim Council, API/Chaya, Tasveer, SABAH (South Asians  
14 Building Accountability & Healing), Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle and thousands of  
15 activists and organizers have spoken out in Seattle against the CAA and NRC; and

16 WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the CAA and the NRC are inconsistent with Seattle  
17 being a welcoming city, for South Asian communities of all castes and religions, and  
18 proclaimed September 24, 2019 to be Stand with Kashmir Day, Clerk File 321438, in  
19 response to the Modi government stripping India’s only Muslim-majority state, Jammu  
20 and Kashmir, of its autonomy; NOW, THEREFORE,

21 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THAT:**

22 Section 1. The Seattle City Council reaffirms Seattle as a welcoming city and expresses  
23 solidarity with Seattle’s South Asian community regardless of religion and caste.

1           Section 2. The Seattle City Council opposes the National Register of Citizens and the  
2           Citizenship Amendment Act in India, and finds these policies to be discriminatory to Muslims,  
3           oppressed castes, women, indigenous, and LGBT people. The Seattle City Council urges the  
4           United States Congress to (a) support legislation censuring the Republic of India for adopting  
5           these policies and (b) call for the Parliament of India to uphold the Indian constitution by  
6           repealing the Citizenship Amendment Act, stopping the National Register of Citizens, and taking  
7           steps towards helping refugees by ratifying various UN treaties on refugees.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 3rd day of February, 2020,

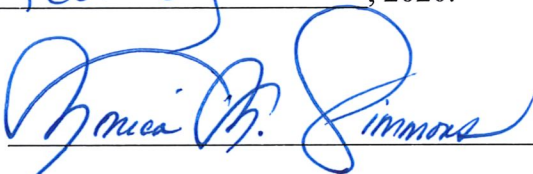
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 3rd day of

3 February, 2020.

4 

5 President Pro Tem of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 3rd day of February, 2020.

7 

8 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk



9 (Seal)