



VSFLOMPOC@GMAIL.COM | @VSF.LOMPOC

February 28, 2025

**Lompoc City Council
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436**

Lompoc City Councilmembers,

We, the members of Voces Sin Fronteras, write you today at an urgent moment for many in our Lompoc Valley community. Our organization of activists extends this proposal in the hope you will hear our call to action and use your elected offices to the fullest extent. The issues facing our city are many and will require every single member of our community to overcome. This is not a moment to be breaking up the tight-knit fabric Lompoc has woven over many years of being the most diverse city in Santa Barbara County.

At the present time, fear and disinformation run rampant through the homes of our undocumented neighbors. Federal immigration agents have been in Lompoc numerous times over the last month, stirring up a general unease and tension which has sent ripples throughout the community. Students have missed school, employees have missed work, and there seems to be no end to this fear in sight. Our organization's aim is to find local solutions to remedy this anxiety for a population that is essential to the Lompoc Valley.

Santa Barbara County is an agricultural community. Lompoc is no different and has a long history of relying on various industries within the agriculture sector. Where we once relied on flowers we now rely on wine and cannabis. Times and crops change, but the labor force making up over half the workers in the fields has not. Santa Barbara generates \$1.8 billion in agricultural revenue because of a largely undocumented workforce. Disrupting this steady flow of labor not only hurts the cultural weave of our community, it also seriously threatens our number one economic industry. We are already seeing these disastrous effects in other California communities, and it will not be long before ours is next.

There will be many other unintended consequences of the reckless shattering of undocumented families. Children, our future residents, will be left without proper support systems. This will cause irreversible damage to their ability to learn and work in our community. Education standards will drop, enrollment will fall, and our school district will lose the little state funding it is eligible for. This is not something we can afford in a resource and labor starved community. Additionally, sales tax revenues may decline, small businesses will close, and the overall feeling of our community will tarnish.

Voces Sin Fronteras submits this proposal to you in an effort to close the gap between city hall and the undocumented residents of Lompoc. We feel what we ask for is fair and extend these requests in an offer of partnership. We request that:

1. The city council pass a resolution proclaiming its support for the undocumented residents of Lompoc. Ensuring that city hall will do all it can to protect their rights, privacy, and ability to be productive members of our community.

2. The city council will include in this suggested resolution a statement of support for California state laws which protect undocumented individuals, such as SB 54 (2017), and that those policies will be upheld in accordance with the law.
3. The city council will write a letter of support to their state representatives espousing their support of new state laws protecting undocumented immigrants in the California legislature, such as SB 48 and AB 421.
4. The city council will work to use city resources to spread factual information to Lompoc's undocumented residence. The city will work with reputable nonprofits focused on immigrant rights to put on informational sessions.
5. The city will sponsor a screening of the *Separated* documentary, which highlights the dangerous effects of separating immigrant families.

Ultimately, we would like the city council to take this issue up for discussion at the March 18 meeting and request city staff draft a resolution for consideration. We feel these requests are fair and we hope you will give them your fullest deliberation. We are hopeful that concerned citizens and the council can work together to address these issues before they lead to negative outcomes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

VOCES SIN FRONTERAS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Andrea Pelagio

Alexia Miranda

Cristina Macias

Anthony Vickery

Alex Murkison

Alondra Razon

Isaiah Sanchez

Daisy Navarro

Larissa Hilario

Lisette Calderon

Carson Link