



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

70 West Hedding Street
East Wing, 9th Floor
San José, California 95110-1770

**James R. Williams
COUNTY COUNSEL**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Alex Butcher-Nesbitt, abutchernesbitt@mercuryllc.com
Phone: 603-707-6153

**Statement from Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams Following
Court Decision Lifting Preliminary Injunction of “Public Charge” Rule**

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams released the below statement following a federal appeals court decision yesterday to stay a preliminary injunction to the Trump administration’s public charge rule. The injunction was secured in October after Santa Clara County and San Francisco jointly filed to block the rule from taking effect.

“The public charge rule is a thinly veiled attack on immigrants and their families,” said Williams. “It flouts more than a century of legal precedent and endangers the health and wellbeing of entire communities. While we are disappointed with the Ninth Circuit’s action to allow the rule to go into effect, today’s decision is not a final decision, and our challenge to the rule will proceed. We strongly urge those impacted by the rule not to be intimidated and to continue accessing the care and services they need under the protection of two separate nationwide injunctions that continue to be in effect despite today’s setback.”

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About the Santa Clara County Counsel’s Office

The Office of the County Counsel serves as legal counsel to the County, its Board of Supervisors and elected officials, every County department and agency, and the County’s boards and commissions. With a staff of over 200, the Office is also responsible for all civil litigation involving the County and its officers. Through its Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section, the Office litigates high-impact cases, drafts innovative local ordinances, and develops policies and programs to advance social and economic justice. The Section also defends the County in select cases with the potential to significantly affect the County’s ability to provide critical safety net services to vulnerable residents. The Section is part of a growing movement to use the power and unique perspective of local government to better serve the community and to drive long-lasting change at the local, state, and national levels.

About the County of Santa Clara, California

The government of the County of Santa Clara serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents – more populous than 14 states. With a \$8.1 billion annual budget, dozens of departments and agencies, and over 20,000 employees, the County provides essential services to its residents, including public health protection, environmental stewardship, medical services through the County of Santa Clara Health System, child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, park services, libraries, emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and many others.