



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Santa Clara County Counsel James Williams Following U.S. Supreme Court Decision Staying Nationwide Injunction of Public Charge Rule

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams released the following statement today after a United States Supreme Court Decision staying the nationwide injunction of the Trump administration’s public charge rule. The County of Santa Clara sued the administration over the rule last August.

“We are deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision today allowing the public charge rule to take effect in California and most of the country. The chilling effects of this rule will threaten the health of our communities, as patients refuse to seek the care they need out of fear that it will impact their green card applications. And the ruling couldn’t come at a worse time. As our health officials work to prevent spread of the coronavirus, maintaining the trust of *all* residents is critical. Life-threatening viruses do not distinguish between immigrants and citizens, and Santa Clara County does not either. We will continue to fight this illegal and dangerous rule and believe our legal claims will ultimately prevail.”

More information on the County’s case against the public charge rule can be found at the County Counsel’s website at www.sccgov.org/publiccharge.

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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.