WELCOMING, SAFE TOWN RESOLUTION

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution declaring Lincoln to be a Welcoming, Safe Town which resolves to make all residents, workers and visitors feel safe and secure regardless of immigration status.

Whereas: Lincoln’s Vision Statement states our goals of fostering economic, racial/ethnic and age diversity among our citizenry through educational, housing and other public policies.

Whereas: The people of the Town of Lincoln have been involved in important moral and humanitarian issues for hundreds of years – including anti-slavery work in the 1830’s, women’s right to vote 40 years before passage of the 19th Amendment, and Sanctuary for Vietnam War draft resisters and Central American refugees fleeing wars and violence.

Whereas: In 2018, when discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion and national origin continues, and is abetted by the federal government, we must: reaffirm our commitment to respect each person’s dignity; lawfully decline to become agents who enforce federal immigration law; help people in our town feel safe and able to call upon us in times of need; and honor and comply with the decisions of our Supreme Judicial Court.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

We, the people of Lincoln affirm and support the policies adopted by the Board of Selectmen and the Lincoln Police to abide by the SJC’s July 24, 2017 decision in Lunn v. Commonwealth, which declared that “Massachusetts law provides no authority for Massachusetts court officers to arrest and hold an individual solely on the basis of a Federal civil immigration detainer, beyond the time that the individual would otherwise be entitled to be released from State custody”;

We, the people of Lincoln declare Lincoln to be a Welcoming, Safe Town, and we all shall work to make all residents, workers and visitors feel safe and secure regardless of immigration status; and

We, the people of Lincoln request the Board of Selectmen to endorse S. 1305, the Massachusetts Safe Communities Act, and to send copies of this Resolution to Governor Baker, State Senators Michael Barrett and Jamie Eldridge, Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler, State Representative Thomas Stanley, and Speaker of the House, Tom DeLeo.