

County of Santa Clara  
Board of Supervisors  
Supervisorial District Three  
Supervisor Dave Cortese



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98048

**DATE:** August 13, 2019

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Dave Cortese, Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network's 32-Year Anniversary Celebration

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve referral to Administration to report to the Board with options for consideration relating to sponsoring the Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN) 32-Year Anniversary Celebration event in the amount of \$2,000. (Cortese)

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is a one-time cost of \$2,000.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

SIREN is hosting their 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary event on October 11, 2019. Funding accrued through this event will be invested into expanding SIREN's emergency immigration hotline, legal services department, policy advocacy department and community organizing department.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1987, SIREN manifested as an ad-hoc coalition of immigrant rights activists to develop a response to the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act under the name Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services (NIRRS).

In 1998, NIRRS changed its name to SIREN and began receiving funding to hire staff and provide information hotline services. The non-profit organization has expanded to include policy analysis, advocacy, community education, legal services, civic engagement, and community and service provider trainings.

SIREN developed the following four program areas to further its immigrant and refugee rights agenda:

- Community Organizing – To assist communities in tapping their potential for leadership and to allow empowerment, education and communication among all

communities.

- Immigration Legal Services – To provide legal assistance on immigration, legal needs, and removal defense assistance, application assistance, information and education to immigrant and refugee communities in order that they may become full participants in society.
- Policy Advocacy – To promote policies that protects immigrant rights and empowers immigrants to make an impact on the political decisions that affect their lives.
- Civic Engagement –To increase civic participation among immigrants and youth through voter registration, educate immigrant and youth voters through community engagement and voter contact and shift the political landscape in Northern California and the Central Valley by mobilizing immigrant and youth vote in elections

SIREN's integration of the four programmatic strategies guarantees that SIREN's work, in partnership with countless ally organizations and community members, consistently reflects and responds to the real needs and problems faced by immigrant and refugee communities.