



Immigrant Friendly Resolutions

Seattle, Washington

An ordinance concerning inquiries by Seattle City officers and employees into immigration status, and activities designed to ascertain such status; and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 4.18 in connection therewith.

WHEREAS, the city of Seattle is comprised of immigrants from throughout the world who contribute to Seattle's social vivacity and cultural richness; and

WHEREAS, Seattle has been a city that traditionally respects the rights of and provides equal services to all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have left immigrant communities of color afraid to access benefits to which they are entitled, for fear of being reported to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS); and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Police Department issued a Directive on June 6, 2002, providing guidelines stating, among other things, that Seattle Police officers may not request specific documents for the sole purpose of determining a person's civil immigration status, and may not initiate police action based solely on a person's civil immigration status; and

WHEREAS, all Seattle City officers and employees should be afforded analogous guidance with respect to inquiries into immigration status; and

WHEREAS, a number of other jurisdictions in the United States have enacted policies or laws recognizing that their officers and employees should properly play a limited role with respect to matters relating to immigration status; and

WHEREAS, these amendments to Seattle Municipal Code Ch. 4.18 are consistent with federal laws regarding localities' responsibilities to cooperate with federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is not intended to interfere with the enforcement of laws.

WHEREAS, amending SMC Ch. 4.18 is an effective way to guide city officials and employees to adhere to federal law while helping to protect the safety and health of all members of our community.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Section 4.18.015 is added to Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 4.18, as follows:

4.18.015 Inquiries into immigration status.

(A) Notwithstanding Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.18.010, unless otherwise required by law or by court order, no Seattle City officer or employee shall inquire into the immigration status of any person, or engage in activities designed to ascertain the immigration status of any person.

(B) Seattle Police officers are exempted from the limitations imposed by Subsection (A), above, with respect to a person whom the officer has reasonable suspicion to believe: (1) has previously been deported from the United States; (2) is again present in the United States; and (3) is committing or has committed a felony criminal-law violation.



Section 2. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.18.020 is amended as follows:

4.18.020 Mayor reports to Council.

The Mayor shall report to the City Council and the people on a yearly basis as to the actions taken and being taken in support of this chapter.

Section 3. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.18.030 is amended as follows:

4.18.030 City Attorney enforcement duties.

Consistent with and subject to Article XIII of the City Charter and the Code of Professional Responsibility, the City Attorney is requested to defend every action brought to declare invalid any section of this chapter, and maintain actions enforcing provisions of this chapter.

Section 4. A new Section 4.18.035 is added to Seattle Municipal Code

Chapter 4.18, as follows:

4.18.035. Required cooperation not prohibited.

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prohibit any Seattle City officer or employee from cooperating with federal immigration authorities as required by law.

Section 5. Nothing in this chapter is intended to create or form the basis for Liability, on the part of the City, or its officers, employees, or agents.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.



Boston, MA

A resolution stating that the City of Boston is in strong support of comprehensive immigration reform and paths to citizenship for immigrants.

WHEREAS: The City of Boston was founded upon the dreams, traditions, industriousness and labor of immigrants, 25% of Boston's current residents are immigrants born outside of the United States, and 92% of Massachusetts' labor growth (2000-2004) was reportedly due to new immigrants; and

WHEREAS: Boston has the fifth highest proportion of immigrant residents among the twenty-three largest U.S. cities, with more than 140 foreign languages spoken by residents and more than 33% of the population speaking more than one language at home; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council recognizes the dignity of all our immigrant residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the importance of their many contributions to the social, religious, cultural and economic life of the City; and

WHEREAS: The difficulties faced by those seeking political asylum and the children born in Boston to parents given Temporary Protected Status who now face possible deportation, shed light on current policies that can lead to the unjustified loss of highly-valued Boston residents; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council opposes any efforts to transfer federal immigration responsibility to state and local officials, since these proposals might damage relationships with immigrant communities. Asking local law enforcement to check immigration status would tax our already overburdened police department and might also make immigrants more fearful of cooperating with law enforcement and reporting crime; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council believes that criminalizing U.S. citizens, those who work with and for immigrants, and immigrants themselves is not a viable long-term solution to concerns over immigration and will continue separating families while preventing civic participation by all community members; and

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council believes there is no inherent conflict between national security and the preservation of liberty, and affirms its strong support for all U.S. military personnel serving at home or abroad, condemns all terrorist acts wherever occurring and recognizes the importance of ensuring homeland security; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has played a leading role in the protection of immigrant rights and has consistently promoted tolerance and respect for all residents, including immigrants, United States Citizens and their families;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for comprehensive immigration reform that combines a path to permanent status for immigrants already here and wider legal channels for those coming in the future with humane and effective enforcement at our borders.

Filed In City Council: March 8, 2006



El Paso, TX

A resolution stating that the city supports specific immigration reforms and border security measures.

WHEREAS, the El Paso/Juarez Community embraces the international nature of our community and believes that our border joins us and does not divide us.

WHEREAS, in 2003, trade through the land ports along the U.S.-Mexico Border represented about 83 percent of the trade between the countries. Together, the top 10 ports of entry account for 98 percent of trade passing through the border. El Paso had approximately 20.2 percent of the exports, which put the city only behind Laredo in volume. As to numbers of overall inspections of people, El Paso surpasses all ports of entry in Texas. With \$152 billion in land trade with Mexico, Texas surpassed other states by far: California (\$30 billion), Arizona (\$12 billion) and New Mexico (\$1.1 billion);

WHEREAS, the balance of the facilitation of trade with the need to make our community secure has long been of principle importance;

WHEREAS, the El Paso community has worked with representatives and agencies in Mexico and the United States for many years to create secure trade and traffic programs, including the first Dedicated Commuter Lane (“DCL”) and Fast and Secure Trade (“FAST”) in Texas;

WHEREAS, current immigration law does not have timely legal alternatives to allow companies or individuals to employ such essential workers as those needed in the construction, healthcare, restaurant, transportation, hotel, elder care, and child care job sectors, among others; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4437, which fundamentally proposes an enforcement only approach to the complex issue of the control of illegal immigration and the improvement of border security.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY:

RESOLVED, that the complex issues of illegal immigration and a porous border cannot be fixed by an enforcement only approach. Any solutions must take a multi-layered approach to multi-layered issues created over decades of neglect.

RESOLVED, that when addressing issues of border security, the emphasis should be on the use of new and emerging technologies that will facilitate legitimate trade and border crossings.

RESOLVED, that the construction of a fence along the entire southern border or the militarization of the border are not reasonable solutions.

RESOLVED, that a solution must address allowing the undocumented in the United States who are filling legitimate employment needs a means to obtain legal status without placing them ahead of those who applied to enter the U.S. legally.

RESOLVED, that immigration processing backlogs must be reduced for those with valid pending applications.

RESOLVED, that new legislation must address document fraud and include severe penalties for those who prey upon undocumented aliens.

RESOLVED, that people offering to “assist” an undocumented person in the U.S. by providing food, shelter, counseling, or transportation must not be exposed to criminal penalties, if



they are not engaged knowingly in smuggling or aiding said individuals to enter into the United States.

RESOLVED, that the City of El Paso will continue to work in a collaborative manner with our Sister City, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, and other governmental entities in the El Paso/ Juarez Borderplex to address issues that are unique to the bi-national, multi-cultural community in which we live.

RESOLVED, that the City of El Paso will provide input and seek legislation regarding border security and immigration reform that is effective, responsible, humanitarian and not an encumbrance to international commerce.

ADOPTED this the 4th day of April 2006 by the City Council of the City of El Paso.



San Francisco, CA

Resolution of the board of supervisors of the county of San Francisco to promote positive human relations and support immigrants and human rights

WHEREAS, one out of every four Californians is an immigrant; in San Francisco County, 37% of our residents are immigrants.

WHEREAS, San Francisco County has a long and rich history of welcoming immigrants and refugees, facilitating their inclusion into our communities and encouraging their integration to ensure that ours is a rich and diverse community, and

WHEREAS, at a time in history when our nation continues to struggle with a sense of vulnerability and insecurity, we are disappointed that many state and national leaders are failing to support our immigrant communities by remaining silent in the face of increasing anti-immigrant rhetoric and activity. Specifically, we are deeply troubled by the growth of vigilante groups such as the Minutemen who have patrolled the Mexico/Arizona border and have expanded their operations to California, Texas, Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. The Minutemen do not help with border security, but in fact, make it more difficult for the border patrol to do its job, and create a more dangerous, hostile environment for all border communities and immigrants who come here seeking work and a better life for themselves and their families, and

WHEREAS, the County of San Francisco has taken a strong stand against hate violence while recent rhetoric has reinforced local anti-immigrant sentiment that is divisive and injurious and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors reaffirms the County's commitment to the promotion of positive human relations and human dignity by speaking out, to denounce the Minutemen and similar vigilante actions along the border with Mexico, and by calling upon our national and state leaders to make immigration reform a top priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Francisco affirms its commitment to promote positive human relations by supporting immigrants and human rights and calls upon local, state and national leaders to protect immigrants and others from vigilante violence and to prosecute the perpetrators of vigilante violence, to make immigration reform which upholds the rights of all residents regardless of immigration status a top priority, to seek solutions which address the root causes of migration, and to encourage constructive and thoughtful community dialogue on this issue.



Columbus, OH

Resolution to oppose United States House of Representatives Resolution 4437 because of its potentially divisive and difficult impacts upon our city

WHEREAS, Columbus is a community committed to tolerance of all people regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, and

WHEREAS, Columbus is home to an extensive network of social service providers that strive to lift up all members of our community, and

WHEREAS, On December 16, 2005 the United States House of Representatives approved Resolution 4437, the Border

Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Act, that makes it a federal felony to be an undocumented immigrant living and working in the United States, and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 4437's broad definition of "smuggling" would allow the federal government to prosecute

almost any American having casual contact with an undocumented immigrant, and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 4437 could potentially make criminals out of local social service providers and church groups that provide food, shelter or other assistance to undocumented immigrants, social workers who assist undocumented workers who are victims of domestic abuse, co-workers that give an undocumented immigrant a ride to work and a U.S. citizen who is living with a spouse who is an undocumented immigrant, and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 4437 could hamper the provision of vital city services by diverting limited homeland security funding away from our police and fire first responders to enforcement of the proposed law, and

WHEREAS, By criminalizing all undocumented aliens, they and their families will no longer know whether they can contact the police to help them in an emergency, and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 4437 is now under consideration in the United States Senate; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

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That Congress should defeat House Resolution 4437 and instead consider more compassionate alternative measures to respond to the issues raised by undocumented workers.

The City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Senators DeWine and Voinovich.