

*Draft City Council Resolution Regarding Immigration*

Rules and Economic Development Committee

March 20, 2013 Committee Meeting – Agenda Item #4

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“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO SUPPORTING  
A REASONABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO REFORMING THE  
CURRENTLY BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM”

WHEREAS, immigration reform is an urgent federal responsibility, and must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner guided by our nation’s values of due process and civil and human rights; and

WHEREAS, civil and human rights are deeply rooted in the fabric of democratic and principled societies, and must be instilled in all elements of our enforcement apparatus to ensure every individual’s dignity and humanity is upheld, recognized and respected; and

WHEREAS, we need a common sense, streamlined immigration process that is simple and efficient. It is in the country’s interest to expand opportunities for highly and lesser skilled immigrants to work. As noted by groups such as the San Diego Table on Immigration Policy, the AFL-CIO and U.S. Chamber, our challenge to create a mechanism that responds to the needs of business in a market-driven way, while also fully protecting the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego recognizes that immigration reform must protect the rights of all families to stay together, regardless of immigration status, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, and to include same-sex couples, and provide sufficient family-based channels for migration in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego is a diverse city with immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who work, own homes, operate businesses and contribute to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the City; and

WHEREAS, the joint cities of San Diego and Tijuana share a common border with significant economic, social and cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the cultural and social riches our nation receives through our border, our ports of entry drive regional and national economic development approaching \$500 billion in trade and one in 24 jobs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego supports added investment in infrastructure and technology as well as adequate staffing of ports of entry in order to keep up with the pace of the expansion of bilateral trade and the population growth of the border region; and

WHEREAS, that it is not practical to deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants living within our borders, and that citizenship should be earned by following a reasonable pathway to

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citizenship, especially for young children who unknowingly enter the United States without proper documentation and have grown up here; and

WHEREAS, this country should provide a pathway to citizenship that is not conditioned upon shortsighted border enforcement strategies that add extra obstacles and burdens to full reform;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of San Diego supports a reasonable and comprehensive approach to reforming the currently broken immigration system that is in the best interest of this country we all love.

DRAFT