



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

**Date:** Dec. 11, 2014

**To:** Hon. Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, & Alondra Cano, Vice Chair, IGR Committee

### Department Information

Prepared by: Staff from IGR, City Clerk and NCR

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters in Committee: IGR and NCR Staff

**Subject: City of Minneapolis Response to President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration**

### Recommendation:

- a) Approve Resolution supporting the Presidential executive actions on immigration.
- b) Support actions by the city council to establish a city staff work group to identify opportunities for the City to support the implementation of the executive actions and bring forward a proposal for official action and support.
- c) Amend the Immigration section of the Federal Agenda as follows: (new language is underlined; strikethrough indicates deleted language):

### Immigration Reform

In 2013 the United States Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S744). Although numerous bills regarding immigration have been introduced in the House of Representatives, no legislation has been brought to the floor of the House for debate and a vote. ~~It is uncertain if~~ The House will not act on immigration reform in 2014. Meanwhile, enforcement of U.S. immigration laws continues. Since 2008 approximately 1.8 million people have been deported.

President Obama on November 20, 2014 issued executive actions to fix the "broken immigration system." Although the actions will be temporary the President's actions will impact approximately 4.0 million undocumented immigrants including 95,000 living in Minnesota. The majority of those who could qualify for a work permit are parents of American citizens. The executive actions also strengthen border security and prioritizes the deportation of felons and not families.

**Recommendation:** the City of Minneapolis supports the executive actions of President Obama announced on November 20, 2014 and recommends that Congress enact immigration reform legislation that:

1. Establishes a "common sense" immigration system for undocumented immigrants. The system should be a roadmap to permanent residency and eventual citizenship for the

estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants. The roadmap could include registration, background checks, and knowledge of American civics, the economy and English.

2. Protects the unity and sanctity of the family, including the families of bi-national and same-sex couples, by reducing the family backlogs and keeping spouses, parents and children together.

3. Ends the exploitation of U.S. and immigrant workers by providing sufficient, safe, and legal avenues for foreign workers to fill legitimate gaps in our workforce, with full labor rights, protection from discrimination, and a reasonable path to permanency that lifts up wages and working conditions for all workers and their families.

4. Insures smart and accountable enforcement that promotes the safety of our communities.

5. Attracts the best and the brightest investors, innovators, and skilled professionals, including those in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies, to help strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a brighter future for all Americans.

6. Builds on the extraordinary success of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and incorporates DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age and are Americans but for a piece of paper—into the mainstream of life in the United States through a path to citizenship so that America benefits from their scholastic achievements, military service and pursuit of their dreams.

7. Includes a balanced, workable solution for the agriculture industry that ensures agricultural workers have a route to citizenship and employers have the workers and American agriculture continues to lead in our global economy.

8. Strengthens our commitment to providing protection to those fleeing persecution and torture, holding true to our deeply held belief in the freedom to be who you want to be and say what you want to say.

9. Renews our commitment to citizenship, to ensure all workers pay their fair share of taxes, fully integrate into our way of life and bear the same responsibilities as all Americans and reaffirms our shared belief that the Citizenship Clause of the Constitution is a fundamental freedom that must be preserved.

### **Supporting Information**

President Barack Obama acted on November 20, 2014, through the issuance of two executive actions to provide temporary administrative relief and work permits to undocumented immigrants meeting certain established requirements. It is estimated this action could impact up to four million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States, including 95,000 in the state of Minnesota.

The City of Minneapolis has included support for federal action on immigration in its Federal Agenda since 2013. This action by the President is in line with policy direction supported by the City, and support for this action and steps taken to further its implementation are in line with the City's existing policy position.

In recognition that the President's action is both significant and not permanent, it is in line with the adopted policy position of the City of Minneapolis to continue to support congressional action to create a path to legalization and eventual citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. In 2013, the United States Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S744); however no legislation has been brought to the floor of the House for debate and a vote. Updating the Federal Agenda introductory language on Immigration Reform will acknowledge these executive actions while renewing the City's support for permanent action on immigration by congress.