



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT
SERVICES

DATE: January 2, 2015

APPROVED: _____

1-2-15

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council agendize item G6 from the December 3, 2014 Rules Committee report entitled "Support for Immigrant Services" for the January 27, 2015 Council meeting for the purpose of allowing the entire Council to consider the proposal. (See the attached memo).

ANALYSIS

At the December 3, 2014 Rules Meeting, Councilmembers Nguyen, Khamis, and myself put forth a proposal wherein the city manager would be directed to return to the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee, and— through the mid-year budget process—to Council, to create a plan to address the imminent flood of inquiries from thousands of our residents who might qualify for relief from deportation under President Barack Obama's recent Executive Action, and under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

President Obama's Executive Action granting relief from deportation gives thousands of our San Jose residents a path toward a better quality of life, and we should feel duty-bound to assist them in navigating the process. Moreover, because this is an issue that effects thousands of San Jose families, it is one the entire council should have the opportunity to weigh in on.



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen
Councilmember Sam Liccardo
Councilmember Johnny Khamis

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT
SERVICES

DATE: November 25, 2014

Approved

Madison Nguyen
(P.C.)

Date

11-25-14

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to return to the Neighborhood Services & Education Committee, and--through the mid-year budget process—to Council, to create a plan to address the imminent flood of inquiries from thousands of our residents who might qualify for relief from deportation under President Barack Obama's recent Executive Action, and under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Specifically, the City Manager should assess the resources required to perform several specific tasks critical to ensuring that otherwise law-abiding undocumented immigrants in our city can fully benefit from the Obama Administration's recent actions. In consultation with key partners, including the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations, the South Bay Immigration Services Network, SIREN, and other non-profit organizations serving immigrants in our community, we should assess whether our network of existing non-profits already addresses the impending need, and what, if any, role the City should play in such tasks as:

1. Referring residents to competent legal service organizations and U.S. government offices where they can obtain critical services and additional information.
2. Tracking and making public the identity of those organizations and individuals exploiting vulnerable immigrants seeking legal services, to warn residents against the use of those specific providers.
3. Proactively performing outreach in many immigrant communities to ensure that families can take full advantage of the programs under the Executive Action or DACA.
4. Assessing whether we are taking full advantage of available grant funding from federal sources or foundations to better serve our immigrant communities through City processes, such as by assistant immigrant-led businesses in navigating city permit

processes, or ensuring that adults have access to ESL and literacy programs through our libraries.

Any funding needs should be raised and discussed during the Council's mid-year budget process in February.

DISCUSSION

The recent announcement by President Obama of an Executive Action granting relief from deportation gives thousands of our San José residents a path toward better employment and educational opportunities. The extraordinary potential for rising living standards for thousands of our families should give all of us in City Hall ample incentive to assist members of our community in navigating this process.