



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

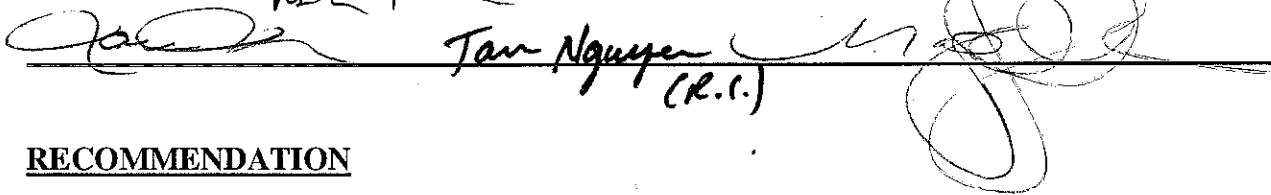
FROM: Councilmember Ash Kalra
Councilmember Raul Peralez
Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco
Councilmember Tam Nguyen

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT
SERVICES**

DATE: 1/9/15

Approved

Date 1/9/15



RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council consider the following recommendations regarding support for immigration services, in addition to the proposal from Mayor Liccardo, Councilmember Khamis, former Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen, at the December 3, 2014 Rules Committee Meeting:

- 1.) Direct the City Manager to bring back a plan to establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs, as well as report back on a potential Welcome Ordinance.
- 2.) Direct the City Manager to investigate and outline a plan for coordination with the County of Santa Clara.
- 3.) Direct the City Manager to explore and report back to the City Council on options of utilizing current City resources.
- 4.) Direct the City Manager to report back to the City Council on the costs and scope of work of designating roles to PRNS staff.

BACKGROUND

We appreciate the memo put forth by Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Khamis and former Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen to support services for the immigrant community. As the City of San José, it is our duty to assist our residents by providing them with the services and resources necessary to support themselves and their families. We believe we have an opportunity to supplement the suggestions from the Mayor's memo by adding more concrete actions the city can undertake immediately.

With continuing changes to Federal immigration policies, to better serve our immigrant community, the City should strongly consider the establishment of an Office of Immigrant

Affairs. This would allow for the coordination of different City departments as they engage with the immigrant community. Some of that engagement can include community outreach, training City staff on changes to Federal law, and facilitating Administrative Relief preparation and processing events at community centers and libraries. In continuing the work the City has done to support small businesses, immigrant entrepreneurship can also be supported through multilingual access of the City's small business resources, as well as education on how the City operates to newly qualifying businesses within the immigrant community.

Consideration of a Welcome Ordinance for the immigrant community would help to articulate the City's principles for the commitment to the immigrant community, and affirming and expanding basic protections for undocumented San José residents. This can also allow for the development of a process to receive and act on violation complaints.

Regardless of the actions the city chooses to take, we know that we cannot and should not seek to offer support to our very large immigrant community alone. The need for support services that will enable immigrants to access President Obama's Administrative Relief measures is not limited to the City of San José. The County of Santa Clara is already moving forward with an initiative to provide these services. In order to avoid the duplication of effort and increase government efficiency, the City and County must coordinate their activities. It is pertinent for us to work with our government partners to ensure quality services for immigrants.

As the City Manager prepares a report on how an Office of Immigrant Affairs would operate and what its function would be, there are actions we can take now prior to formal creation of an office to oversee issues effecting immigrant residents. The City has a wide variety of resources that could be utilized to educate the immigrant community about Administrative Relief. Libraries, community centers, and other City facilities could be put to use as part of this effort. Rather than relying on outside agencies and organizations to take on all the work, let us see how we, as the City, can contribute to immigration services with our current City resources. The U.S. Congress will not fund support services that will enable immigrants to access Administrative Relief, and the non-profit sector cannot adequately meet these needs by itself. Local governments must, therefore, consider providing the referral, outreach, education, and other services necessary to provide support for immigrants. These services will require resources, and if the City does not provide resources, we will be doing little to assist immigrants who qualify for relief under the President's Executive Action. As is suggested in the Mayor's office, we certainly should seek grant funding and should evaluate the degree to which city resources are needed as we begin to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year. In the meantime, we propose to designate staff within PRNS to act as a liaison on immigration services, work with the County's Office of Human Relations, and help service providers access community centers, libraries, and other City resources.