

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Norberto Dueñas

SUBJECT: IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

DATE: May 19, 2015

BACKGROUND

In the Mayor's March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, as approved by the City Council, the Administration was directed to assess the City's appropriate role in implementing President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration and to allocate a modest amount of funding to outreach, education, and legal services. This memorandum addresses some of the methods the City can use to implement administrative relief efforts and immigrant integration.

ANALYSIS

Recent legislative and executive changes to federal immigration policy, most notably Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA), will provide both temporary administrative relief from deportation and the ability to acquire work permits for people who qualify. This action offers the opportunity to stimulate our local economy and strengthen families and neighborhoods in San José by encouraging the integration of immigrants into our overall community.

Administrative Relief

According to the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at the University of Southern California, it is estimated that more than 77,000 eligible undocumented residents reside in Santa Clara County. It is in our best interest to ensure efficient and affordable delivery of services to maximize enrollment by city residents. This will require effective tactical coordination and short-term investments. Numerous nonprofit organizations have developed a coordinated plan of action to provide education and outreach, workshops to guide people on documentation requirements prior to preparing an application, and legal services. Additionally, the County of Santa Clara has developed a blueprint that provides an operational guide to support the implementation of administrative relief. It is estimated that \$4.0 million is needed to execute the plans. The County has committed an investment of \$1.8 million and it is expected that the Silicon Valley Community Foundation will provide modest funding as well.

A \$200,000 one-time investment by the City of San José to implement administrative relief efforts will support public education and outreach, documentation preparation, and application assistance. The City can also support the effort through the following:

- Coordination with the County of Santa Clara and nonprofit organizations to maximize leverage of opportunities and avoid duplication of services

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- Convene local governments to increase understanding of city roles and opportunities for collaboration
- Collaborate with United Way of Silicon Valley, the Mexican Consulate, and ethnic media to carry out an effective public education and outreach campaign
- Work with community centers, libraries, and other city-owned facilities for nonprofit groups prepared to provide workshops on administrative relief and documentation prep
- Coordinate activities with San José Police Department's Hispanic Liaison Officer.

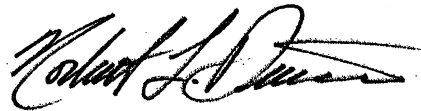
Immigrant Integration

The administration recognizes that San José and Silicon Valley are part of an incredibly diverse region with many foreign-born residents who contribute significantly to our economic and cultural vitality. It is important that the City provide a welcoming environment and supportive integration services to newcomers to our community and the United States. In recent months, it has become evident that establishing an Office of Immigrant Affairs would be a highly valuable service in our community. While supporting the urgent need related to the executive action, it is equally important to create an Office that, in the long-term, will be a key bridge between the immigrant community and the City of San José. To that end, the Office of Immigrant Affairs has been created, headed by Deputy City Manager Julie Edmonds-Mares. The Office of Immigrant Affairs will continue to research and promote policies and programs that facilitate immigrant well-being, increase cross-departmental coordination, engage in community outreach, and function as a partner to local organizations on immigrants' integration needs. The City will also explore opportunities to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure that limited resources are leveraged appropriately.

Staff will provide the City Council an update on activities related to the Office of Immigrant Affairs in fall 2015.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Manager's Budget Office, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, San Jose Police Department, and the San José Library.



NORBERTO DUENAS
City Manager