

MAR 21 2014

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

14-0002-533

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, a category five typhoon, devastated the Philippines, displacing more than four million people, killing approximately 6,000 people and affecting approximately 16 million people according to the Government of the Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council; and

WHEREAS, Typhoon Haiyan has damaged or destroyed an estimated 1.1 million homes in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the Council on December 10, 2013, adopted a resolution (C.F. 13-002-S137) to support visa extensions to Filipino immigrants legally living in the U.S. to continue to work and attend school as their native country recovered from the typhoon; and

WHEREAS, the City and the larger Los Angeles community should join the collective and humanitarian effort to support Filipinos during the continuous recovery of their nation; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2013, the Philippine government formally requested that the United States government grant them Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to temporarily stop the deportation of Filipino nationals;

WHEREAS, due to dire circumstances confronting Filipinos, the City urges the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to assist the Philippines and victims of this national disaster by designating TPS to the Philippines and eligible Filipino nationals regardless of legal immigration status; and


WHEREAS, for many Filipinos returning to their native country would entail returning to a country with limited resources, a country attempting to recover and unable adequately accommodate additional people; and

WHEREAS, the Philippines receives approximately nine percent of its gross domestic product through remittances; the designation would allow Filipinos residing in the U.S. an opportunity to assist in recovery efforts where they can legally work, send money and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has previously granted TPS to nationals from countries suffering from civil war or severe natural disasters; including: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Syria; and

WHEREAS, the TPS program stipulates an individual is only eligible for TPS benefits if he or she: establishes continuous physical presence and continuous residence in the U.S.; is not subject to one of the criminal, security related or other bars to TPS; and, applies for TPS benefits in a timely manner; and

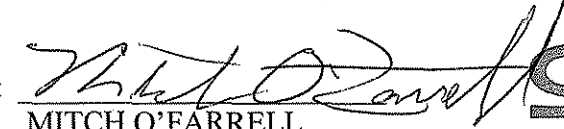
WHEREAS, the TPS program states that an individual is not eligible for TPS if he or she: has been convicted of any felony or two or more misdemeanors committed in the U.S.; is persecutor or subject to one of the bars to asylum; or is subject to criminal-related or terrorism-related grounds of inadmissibility of which a waiver is not available; and

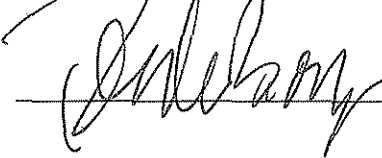


WHEREAS, the City of New York and City and County of San Francisco have adopted resolutions in support of Temporary Protected Status designation for the Philippines and eligible Filipino nationals; and

WHEREAS, the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California estimates 800,000 to 1 million Filipinos nationwide may be eligible for TPS benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT of legislation and/or administrative action to grant Temporary Protected Status to Philippine nationals to prevent their deportation while their country recovers from Super Typhoon Haiyan.

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

grs

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