

14-0002-587

AUG 01 2014

RESOLUTION

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, in recent months an unprecedented number of children have fled their home countries in Central America to seek refuge in the United States; and

WHEREAS, data collected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shows that since October 2013, approximately 51,017 Central America children have fled from their home countries into the United States, which represents a substantial increase from prior years; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated the number of children entering the United States during the 2014 fiscal year will exceed 90,000; and

WHEREAS, more girls are migrating than in previous years because of regional increases in gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS, during their dangerous route to the United States, many children become victims of sexual trafficking, abuse, and violence; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) interviewed more than 400 unaccompanied minors whom stated that extreme poverty, unemployment, trauma, and the lack of state protection from gang violence and drug-traffickers were the main reason for fleeing their home countries; and

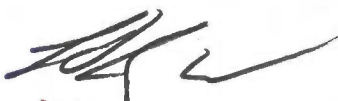
WHEREAS, according to the UNHCR, approximately two-thirds of the minors who have recently arrived qualify for international protections as a result of violence and abuse in their home countries; and

WHEREAS, The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, signed into law under George W Bush, along with several previous Acts, makes it illegal to send away unaccompanied children from non-congruous countries; and

WHEREAS, the children arriving from Central American countries fall under the 2008 provision and can't simply be turned away; and

WHEREAS, once apprehended by the U.S. Custom and Border Patrol, many of these children have been placed in detention facilities and processing centers where they have been subjected to inhumane living conditions for indeterminate periods of time; and

WHEREAS, the city of Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans living outside of their respective countries, with an estimated population of one million nationals who are inextricably linked to their homeland; and


AUG 1 2014

ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, Los Angeles benefits from a rich network of culturally competent organizations and services providers with expertise in addressing the needs of Central America and Latino immigrant communities including the Central America Resource Center (CARECEN), Clinica Monsignor Oscar A. Romero, the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), the Salvadoran-American Leadership and Educational Fund, among others; and


WHEREAS, the importance of local, state and federal agencies working with local non-profits is key to addressing this crisis, it is critical that Los Angeles takes a firm position in support of its communities;

WHEREAS, the Consulate of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have dedicated resources to this important matter and have called upon the United States to do the same; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles includes in its 2014-2015 Federal Legislative program support for the following:

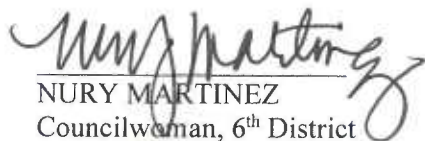
- (1) Urges the Obama administration and the Department of Home Land Security to ensure the humane treatment of the thousands of minors being detained and to extend the necessary level of protections including humanitarian relief, advocacy, legal support, expeditious reunification of minors with their families and consideration of their status as refugees; and
- (2) Oppose any changes and/or modifications to the 2008 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

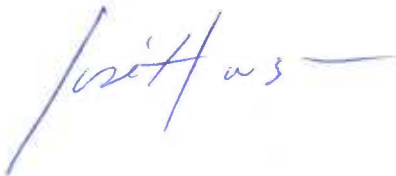
Presented By:


GILBERT A. CEDILLO
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Seconded by:



