


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: December 5, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No.: 13-0002-S137
Assignment No.: 13-11-0994

SUBJECT: Resolution (O'Farrell-Fuentes) to Support visa extensions for Filipino immigrants affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached revised Resolution to include in the City's 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of legislation that would extend U.S. visas for Filipino immigrants legally living in the U.S. who were impacted by Typhoon Haiyan.

SUMMARY

Resolution (O'Farrell-Fuentes) states that during the early days of November, Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Typhoon Yolanda, devastated the central Philippines reportedly killing at least 4,000 people and injuring at least 12,000. The Resolution also indicates that according to the United Nations, the Typhoon particularly affected Samar Island and Leyte where cities and towns were destroyed. According to the Resolution, news reports anticipate a death toll over 10,000. The Resolution states that in light of the devastation and need for recovery United States Senator Chuck Schumer has proposed to introduce legislation to extend the visas for Filipinos who are in the U.S. while their homeland recovers from the Typhoon. The Resolution therefore recommends that the City support legislation that would allow Filipino nationals legally in the United States to continue working or going to school regardless of when their visas expire.

BACKGROUND

On November 19, 2013, Resolution (O'Farrell-Fuentes) was introduced to support the legislation that would allow Filipino nationals legally in the United States to continue working or going to school regardless of when their visas expire. In early November, Senator Chuck Schumer proposed legislation to extend visas for Filipino individuals residing in the U.S. until the Philippines fully recovers from Typhoon Haiyan. The intent of Senator Schumer's proposal is to assist those Filipino immigrants with U.S. visas who were affected Typhoon Haiyan. Our Office contacted the Office of Senator Schumer to confirm the statement and inquire about the status of the proposed legislation. However, staff from Senator Schumer's Office has indicated that legislation is still in development.

We have prepared a revised Resolution to clarify that the City supports visa extensions for Filipino immigrants affected by Typhoon Haiyan. We will continue to monitor federal legislation and identify any bills proposing to extend visas for Filipino nationals.

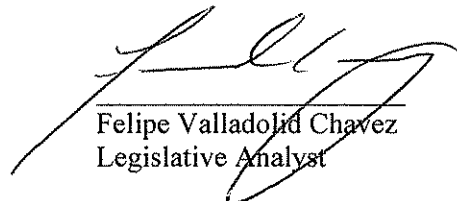
DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None.

BILL STATUS

None.

Attachments: Resolution (O'Farrell-Fuentes)
GFM: fvc


Felipe Valladolid Chavez
Legislative Analyst

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 government 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, during the early days of November, Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Typhoon Yolanda, devastated the central Philippines reportedly killing at least 4,000 people and injuring at least 12,000; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations, the Typhoon particularly affected, Samar Island and Leyte where cities and town were destroyed; and

WHEREAS, news reports anticipate a death toll of over 10,000 in the central area of the Philippines with additional deaths in the coastal cities; and

WHEREAS, wires, trees, and debris have caused major damage cutting off access to these certain areas; and

WEHREAS, in light of the devastation and need for recovery, United States Senator Chuck Schumer has proposed to extend the visas for Filipinos who are in the U.S. while their homeland recovers from the Typhoon; and

WHERAS, support of legislation that seeks to assist Filipino immigrants by extending their visa status to allow them to continue to work and go to school should be a priority for the City of Los Angeles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT of legislation that would extend U.S. visas for Filipino immigrants legally living in the U.S. who were impacted by Typhoon Haiyan.