

14-1654

MOTION

HOUSING

As the U.S. continues to wait for comprehensive immigration reform, there have been several piecemeal actions to address our nation's ongoing struggle with the undocumented.

Last month President Obama, through executive action, announced an immigration reform initiative that would allow parents of either U.S. citizens or long-term permanent residents to apply for a work permit and three years of protection from deportation. The action also included an expansion of the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

Earlier this year, thousands of unaccompanied children crossing the border grabbed the nation's headlines, serving as an example of the larger immigration challenges facing our nation today. The Office of Refugee Resettlement in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services opened additional short-term shelters throughout the United States for children who enter the country without their parent; in Los Angeles x shelters were open to address the urgent need.

New legislation passed in California will allow non-U.S. citizens to obtain identification in the form of drivers licenses starting January 1. California's Department of Motor Vehicles expects an estimated 1.4 million to apply.

In Los Angeles, The Office of Immigrant Affairs has been successful in hosting numerous immigration workshops on DACA, DL's, and Citizenship. In addition, City libraries have hosted Citizenship Corners which have disbursed information to more than 15,000 immigrants on the path to citizenship.

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, local communities are left with addressing immigration's numerous humanitarian and social challenges. The City of Los Angeles must continue to be proactive in assisting our communities and their families with the above mentioned initiatives, as well as be prepared for further immigration reform initiatives.

The City's Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) manages several Family Source Centers, organizations receiving City financial support that offer a range of educational, family, child and youth services including counseling, activities, ESL classes, and food distribution. As the City looks for ways to assist the immigrant community, Family Source Centers are an appropriate venue to provide these services.

The Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) operates 17 Centers throughout Los Angeles. The centers act as employment agencies, helping people identify potential job opportunities. In light of Obama's recent executive action, these Centers may serve as an entry point for people with newly granted work permits.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct HCID to request Family Source Centers to establish linkages with non-profits who provide immigration services, and to include these types of services to the immigration community as part of future development of the Family Source Centers program;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct EWDD to report back on the possibility of including immigration services within their 17 centers, and/or the option to establish linkages with non-profits who provide said services;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Library to report back on the feasibility of establishing similar services; and to have the CLA report on other Departments which could host immigration services, and/or referrals to immigration services organizations, as well as what grant funding opportunities & public private partnerships are available to fund such efforts.

PRESENTED BY:

Gilbert Cedillo

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