



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Diana Palacios: (915) 227-2341
Matt Awbrey: (619)929-0089

San Diego Republican Councilmembers Unveil Resolution Urging Bi-Partisan Federal Action on Immigration Reform

Recognizing that the national immigration system is broken, Republican Councilmembers Kevin Faulconer, Mark Kersey, Lorie Zapf, and Scott Sherman unveiled today a resolution calling for bi-partisan federal action on immigration and border reform.

The resolution, which the councilmembers have requested be considered at the March 20th Rules Committee meeting, supports work led by Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and six others (“the Gang of 8”). It urges Congress to “work in a thoughtful and bi-partisan manner” and provides a framework to create a safer border, reunite families, and make San Diego more competitive in a global economy.

“The time has come for fair, reasonable, and comprehensive immigration reform,” said Councilmember Faulconer. He added that, “with the Senate’s focus on working together, the country has a window of opportunity to move forward on an issue which affects so many people.”

“Immigration has a direct and tangible impact on the San Diego-Tijuana border. Decisions on reform may be made in Washington, D. C., but the impact of those decisions will be felt locally, which is why the City Council must outline a position on reform,” noted Councilmember Kersey.

Councilmember Zapf stated, “Immigration has supported our nation over many decades and has been a source for economic growth and innovation for San Diego. There is an urgent need to move forward now with comprehensive reform at the federal level.”

“It is important that the nation adopt an immigration policy that supports families and advances the interests of all residents,” said Councilmember Sherman.

Specifically, the resolution supports the following key principles:

- Immigrants have made significant contributions to San Diego’s economic and cultural vitality and played central roles in the founding and development in the City of San Diego
- A reasonable and practical plan that allows unauthorized immigrants currently residing in the United States to earn legal status and is contingent upon successfully securing the nation’s borders

- A bi-national effort to secure the border that includes adequate staffing and infrastructure at our ports of entry to facilitate decreased wait times and encourage economic growth
- Providing young people who entered the United States as children and did not knowingly violate immigration laws with an opportunity to apply for legal status through a separate process which could include military service or the attainment of higher education
- An employment verification system that holds employers accountable and cracks down on identity theft and document falsification
- Aggressive accountability measures for companies who knowingly hire unauthorized workers and the establishment of a reliable method for employers to verify that employees are in the country legally
- A comprehensive plan to enhance border security that includes increasing the number of agents at and between ports of entry and utilizing advanced technology
- An entry-exit system that tracks whether persons entering the United States on Non-Immigrant Visas leave the country when their visas expire
- The ability for businesses to hire certain categories of foreign workers when legal residents are unavailable or unwilling to fill jobs and increased enforcement of labor regulations to ensure that workers are protected
- A provision that precludes individuals who pose a threat to national security or have serious criminal backgrounds from being eligible to earn legal status and makes them subject to removal

Upon final passage, the City Council will send a copy of the resolution to President Obama and San Diego's Congressional Delegation.

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