



City of San Diego
MARK KERSEY
CITY COUNCILMAN, FIFTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

Contact: Elizabeth Spillane
(714) 458-6798

Largest U.S. Border City Backs Immigration Reform

San Diego City Council calls on 113th Congress to fix nation's broken immigration system

SAN DIEGO, California, April 9, 2013 – Today the City Council of America's largest border city unanimously passed a resolution urging "reasonable and comprehensive" immigration reform at the federal level. The resolution makes San Diego one of the first municipalities to enter the debate since the "Gang of Eight" took up immigration reform in the United States Senate.

"Immigration has a direct and tangible impact on the San Diego-Tijuana border. It impacts citizens and non-citizens alike. We are calling on Washington, D.C. to make changes that ensure a safe border, unite families and strengthen our economy," said Councilman Kersey.

The resolution was co-authored by Republican Councilman Mark Kersey and Democratic Councilman David Alvarez. Their unified document incorporates aspects of a resolution put forward by Republican Councilmembers and a different resolution introduced by Alvarez.

The resolution points to the status quo's social and economic implications for the City and calls for an efficient and safe border, a pathway to citizenship, improving the visa process, and more. It also cites the economic benefits of ports of entry, with trade approaching \$500 billion in 2011, according to a 2012 Border Research Partnership report produced by the Wilson Center.

A copy of the resolution will be sent to President Obama and San Diego's Congressional Delegation.

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RESOLUTION NUMBER R-_____

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN DIEGO SUPPORTING A REASONABLE AND
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO IMMIGRATION
REFORM

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego is a diverse city with residents that include immigrants and refugees from many parts of the world who work, own homes, operate businesses and contribute to the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the City; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a beacon of liberty with due process and civil rights firmly embedded in the democratic principles of this nation, principles that must be reflected in our immigration system; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego shares an international border with the city of Tijuana, Mexico, and the two cities have significant economic, social and cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the cultural and social riches our nation receives through the San Diego-Tijuana international border, the ports of entry drive regional and national trade with economic benefits approaching \$500 billion in trade in 2011, according to a 2012 Border Research Partnership report produced by the Wilson Center; and

WHEREAS, years of gridlock in Congress on immigration reform has created a broken immigration system which has led to social and economic implications for the City and the San Diego metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, it is important that immigration reform preserve families and keep them together, regardless of immigration status, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, age,

disability, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, including same-sex couples, and provide sufficient family-based channels for migration in the future; and

WHEREAS, the City supports and immigration reform should include, an efficient and safe border including added federal investment in infrastructure and technology at our ports of entry, as well as adequate staffing, to keep pace with expanding bilateral trade and population growth of the border region; and

WHEREAS, the City supports and immigration reform should include, a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living within our nation's borders—not tied to unreasonable conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is equally important to provide a pathway to citizenship for those individuals who entered the United States without proper documentation as young children and have been raised and educated in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the current visa backlog for family-sponsored immigration petitions is over 20 years long and deters individuals wanting to come to the United States from doing so; and

WHEREAS, reform must clear out the visa backlog, streamline the process for procuring visas, and include business accountability measures to ensure that U.S. companies have the resources they need when talent is not available; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of San Diego, supports the work of the 113th Congress of the United States to create a reasonable, bi-partisan and comprehensive approach to reform the currently broken immigration system, that is in the best interests of the City, the greater San Diego region, and the nation, as described in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and the Honorable members of the 113th Congress of the United States who represent the San Diego region, urging immediate implementation of immigration reform.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By _____
Carrie L. Gleeson
Deputy City Attorney

CLG:sc
04/08/13
Or.Dept: Council District 8
Doc. No.:539943_2

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of _____.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By _____
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____
(date)

BOB FILNER, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

BOB FILNER, Mayor