

Item 4



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

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Meeting Date: February 19, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Edith Moreida/49280

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Margaret J. Gomez

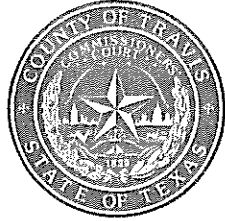
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Margaret J. Gomez

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Approve Resolution addressing the need for Immigration Reform.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

WHEREAS, the topics of immigration reform, border security, and state and federal cooperation on immigration are concerns that are of great importance to state and local government entities on both sides of the United States Mexico border; and,

WHEREAS, the federal government is currently making historic strides to fixing an immigration system that has long been broken; and,

WHEREAS, every social sector stands to benefit from a reform of our federal immigration system; and,

WHEREAS, The United States of America is a land of immigrants, and the migration of people and families from all corners of the world has enriched the American culture; and,

WHEREAS, our nation's progress is rooted in values that promote a diversified economy, protect family unity, and opportunity and liberty for all sectors of our society; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the cultural and social riches the nation receives through our border, our ports of entry drive regional and national economic development approaching \$500 billion in trade and one in twenty four American jobs; and,

WHEREAS, our border enforcement apparatus has reached and surpassed all benchmarks proposed in previous immigration reform discussions including increases in border agents between ports of entry to 22,000, increased border barriers such as 650 total miles of fencing, increased "operational control" of the border by spending \$18 billion last year alone, more than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined; and,

WHEREAS, the consequences of "enforcement first" approach has resulted in a choking effect on regional economic development, civil rights violations, migrant deaths; and,

WHEREAS, Washington must make significant investments in and focus on commerce and legal migration in addition to enforcement of immigration laws.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT :

RESOLVED That Travis County supports a reasonable and comprehensive approach to reforming the now broken immigration system; and

RESOLVED That civil and human rights are deeply rooted in the American fabric and must be instilled in all elements of our enforcement apparatus to ensure the humanity of an individual must be recognized and respected; and

- RESOLVED That it is not practical to deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants living within our borders, but that citizenship should be earned by following an established pathway to citizenship; and,
- RESOLVED That the path to citizenship not be conditioned upon more of the same border enforcement strategies that would only add extra obstacles to full integration; and,
- RESOLVED That the immigration system be streamlined to be more efficient in order to attract the best minds to America and encourage foreign graduate students in high demand fields like math science and technology to stay after graduation; and,
- RESOLVED To pass legislation that strengthens prohibitions against racial profiling and inappropriate use of force, enhance the training of border patrol agents, increase independent oversight, and create a mechanism to ensure a meaningful opportunity for border communities to share input, including critiques; and,
- RESOLVED That legislation reduce backlogs in the family and employment visa categories so that future immigrants view our future legal immigration system as the exclusive means for entry into the United States; and,
- RESOLVED That future waves of illegal immigration be prevented by creating a humane and effective system for these immigrant workers to enter the country and find employment without seeking the aid of human traffickers; and,
- RESOLVED That legislation provide businesses with ability to hire lower skilled workers in a timely manner when Americans are unavailable or unwilling to fill those jobs while protecting workers by ensuring strong labor protections; and,
- RESOLVED That immigration reform provide young people who entered the United States as minor children not knowingly violating immigration laws should be entitled to an expedited pathway to citizenship through military service or the attainment of higher education; and,
- RESOLVED That the bi-partisan group of U.S. Senators who rose above the divisive politics of the day to create an agreement in principle should be commended for their work; and,
- RESOLVED That Travis County will provide input and support legislation that is effective, responsible, humanitarian and not an encumbrance to international commerce.

Singed this 26th day of February 2013

 SAMUEL T. BISCOE
 COUNTY JUDGE

 RON DAVIS
 COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

 SARAH ECKHARDT
 COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

 GERALD DAUGHERTY
 COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

 MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
 COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4