

3/13/2008

3/12/2008

3/4/2008

1/30/2008

**11-R-08**

**A RESOLUTION**

**Calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and for  
Reaffirmation of the City's Commitment to Humane and Just  
Treatment of Immigrants and Their Families**

**WHEREAS**, historical circumstances have led to the uneven development of the resources of the peoples of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and North America resulting in the concentration of significant wealth in such countries as the United States, France, England, Canada and other western nations and in the impoverishment of the majority of the world's people;

**WHEREAS**, such high concentration of resources in the United States, its high standard of living, the evolution of a tradition of protecting the individual rights and liberties of its citizens have caused major inflow of migrants into the United States from various parts of the world seeking a better quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, international political conflicts, inequities in various regions of the world, poverty and the emergence of brutal dictatorial regimes that violate their people's human rights have led many to escape into the United States in search of refuge and political asylum;

**WHEREAS**, the United States, from its inception, has been a nation

of immigrants seeking political or economic refuge, freedoms not attainable in their land of origin, and the ability to improve their lot in life that is not open to them elsewhere; and

**WHEREAS**, the tradition of generosity of the American people is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty which states:

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the history of the United States, immigrants who come to the United States have contributed greatly to the social, cultural, and economic success of our society and still do so today;

**WHEREAS**, today, the immigration policy of the United States has become inefficient and applied unequally thereby resulting in significant administrative backlog of qualified applicants awaiting years for the processing of their applications;

**WHEREAS**, the major inflow of immigrants into the United States and the inefficient execution of the immigration policy have resulted in more than 12 million immigrants in the United States who are not yet documented;

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority of these immigrants who are here in the United States but who have not yet gotten documented are law abiding, hard-working, tax paying individuals;

**WHEREAS**, many American businesses and individuals depend on these immigrants for their labor and for their services;

**WHEREAS**, it is unreasonable, irrational and impractical to expect the United States government to invest the tremendous amount of resources that it would take to deport over 12 million human beings because of their lack of documentation as the application of such a policy would create chaos in society;

**WHEREAS**, however, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of the Department of Homeland Security continues to conduct excursions to round up and deport not-yet-documented immigrants creating an atmosphere of fear even when such actions result in the separation of parents from their American children;

**WHEREAS**, Evanston has had a long history of taking the lead in defense of justice, compassion, human rights and peace, as evidenced by city declarations of our opposition to the war in Iraq; of Evanston as a sanctuary community for El Salvadoran refugees and as a nuclear free zone; and Evanston's proud tradition of valuing and promoting diversity, as in the successful effort to integrate our public schools, the annual celebration of the Ethnic Arts Festival and the provision of bilingual education and bilingual city services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Evanston, including all of its departments, has never conditioned the provision of City benefits, opportunities, or services on matters related to citizenship or immigrant status; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Evanston reaffirms its practice and commitment to the continued treatment of immigrants and their families on a humane and just basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and the Evanston City Council urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to support comprehensive immigration reform that would do the following: (1) provide a road for legalization of not-yet-documented immigrants who are currently living within the borders of the United States and who have not committed crimes against society; (2) protect families from forced separation through deportation of undocumented parents from their American children through the passage of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for the law-abiding parents of American children against deportation; (3) make more efficient the process by which qualified applicants may receive their legal papers on an expedited basis; and (4) redirect public resources from deportation efforts to the establishment of processing stations at designated ports of entry into the United States to manage the flow of Immigration; and (5) end discriminatory treatment of applications for immigration relief on the basis of race, gender, national origin or economic class status.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this Resolution be prepared and presented to the President of the United States, the members of

the Illinois congressional delegation, the members of the Illinois General Assembly, and both local and national officials of the Department of Homeland Security.

  
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Lorraine H. Morton, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Mary P. Morris, City Clerk

Adopted: March 10, 2008