

Resolution 2005-66

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION REGARDING ACTIONS WITHIN HIGHTSTOWN BOROUGH BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown is comprised of immigrants from throughout the world who contribute to Hightstown's social vigor, cultural richness, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown has been a town that traditionally respects the rights of and provides equal services to all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown and its law enforcement agency have made combating ethnic and racial profiling a priority; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown Police Department has made it a priority to gain the trust and confidence of the entire community as part of its law enforcement and public service mission and as part of its community policing program; and

WHEREAS, by identifying themselves as "Police," U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") officers have created the erroneous appearance that they are a part of, or associated with the Hightstown Borough Police, thereby substantially putting at risk the trust and confidence of the immigrant community which the Borough and its Police Department have cultivated for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, the fear and concern brought about by these actions could lead to a loss of trust and confidence of the immigrant community in the Borough police threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the entire Hightstown community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown strongly encourage ICE to engage in conduct that does not create needless mistrust and fear of the Hightstown Borough Police Department and other municipal agencies which are committed to help, rather than harm, productive and valuable members of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown will commit itself and the resources of the Borough of Hightstown to restoring the trust Hightstown Borough residents have in the municipal government and police department, so that all Hightstown residents and visitors, including all immigrants, can have the confidence to contact and interact with local police without fear of immigration consequences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown strongly encourage the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to continue to pass rational and just immigration laws that will provide undocumented immigrants with the opportunity to legalize their status based on the sponsorship of their family members and employers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, United States Senators Frank Lautenberg and Jon Corzine and Congressman Christopher Smith.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council at a meeting held on March 7, 2005.

Candace B. Gallagher
Borough Clerk