

Council Member Smith, Ellis, Fahey, Calsolaro, Conti, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Sano, Scalzo and Timmons introduced the following, which was approved:

Resolution Number 54.52.09R (As Amended)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

WHEREAS, the recent tragedy in Binghamton, New York has brought attention to the many challenges that immigrants face, and

WHEREAS, approximately twelve million undocumented immigrants reside in the United States, and many in our own community, and

WHEREAS, many immigrant workers are exploited with sub-standard wages and working conditions, and

WHEREAS, immigrant families, including local families, are living in constant fear of repression, jail, or deportation, and

WHEREAS, we call upon the Federal Government to develop and enforce a comprehensive immigration reform policy which promotes reunification of families, provides a path to earned citizenship, and a plan for current and future immigrant workers, and

WHEREAS, it is not the intent of this body to encourage immigrants to reside in the United States without documentation, however given that this issue exists it is incumbent on municipalities to attempt to deal with the matter as the Federal Government has failed to create a comprehensive reform policy, and

WHEREAS, many new immigrants face structural barriers to resources and services because of lack of language access, and

WHEREAS, we, the City of Albany Common Council find the above conditions deplorable and unjust, and

WHEREAS, Albany is a city built by immigrants and continues to benefit from the economic and cultural contributions of new immigrants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that when an immigrant living, visiting and/or working in the City of Albany is not posing a threat to the community, the City of Albany Common Council calls on all state, federal, and local political leaders and agencies to:

1) Refrain from all unnecessary measures to jail, detain, or deport documented and undocumented immigrants and their families living in the City of Albany;

2) Instruct public safety personnel to refrain from asking people their immigration status, which is a federal matter;

3) Support a transparent and equitable legal due process leading to citizenship for all immigrants living in our city;

4) Provide equitable language access to all city offices and services;

5) Encourage the City of Albany Commission on Human Rights to serve as a vehicle to educate the public about these issues and

6) Support a welcoming and compassionate environment for immigrants and their families within our city and its institutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the locally elected federal, state, and county officials.

Passed by the following vote of all the Council Members elected voting in favor thereof:

Affirmative -- Calsolaro, Casey, Conti, Ellis, Fahey, Herring, Igoe, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Rosenzweig, Sano, Scalzo, Smith and Timmons

Affirmative 14 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Clerk of the Common Council

President of the Common Council

Mayor

Date

I, John C. Marsolais, City Clerk and Clerk of the Common Council, do hereby certify that the legislation set forth in this document was passed at a meeting of the Albany Common Council on July 20th, 2009.

In Affirmation thereof, I hereto set my hand and affix The Seal of the City of Albany this 21st day of July, 2009.

Clerk of the Common Council

TO: John Marsolais, City Clerk

FROM: Barbara Smith, Council Member

RE: Request for Common Council Legislation
Supporting Memorandum

DATE: May 6, 2009

RESOLUTION NUMBER

TITLE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT RIGHTS IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION: To officially express the opinion of the Common Council.

NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW: As explained in resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.