

ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



To: MAYOR & COUNCIL

From: Lisa Schaefer
Human Resources Director

Date: October 1, 2013

Subject: Immigration Reform

Attachments: HRRC Resolution

Action Requested:

Move to add HRRC Immigration Reform Resolution to a future Council Agenda for consideration.

Situation:

On August 27, 2013 the Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission passed a motion recommending that the City Council adopt the attached immigration reform resolution and that it be circulated as widely as possible, including to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation.

Background:

Immigration Reform is not currently part of the Commission or Council's Work Plan but the HRRC would like to present a recommendation at a future council meeting.

The Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission is charged by the City Council to advocate for basic human rights and needs in the Edina community.

Citing the impacts of immigration issues on the people of Edina, the Human Rights and Relations Commission researched and discussed the benefits of the U.S. House of Representatives adopting a comprehensive immigration reform. The U.S. Senate already adopted the Immigration Reform Bill (S744) which has bi-partisan support, and is estimated to create 12,850 new jobs in MN Congressional District 3 and 13,098 new jobs in Congressional District 5. In addition, Edina has an estimated foreign-born population of over 9%.

Assessment:

Adoption of the Immigration Reform Bill (S744) would give all citizens and qualified immigrants equal access to employment, housing, public accommodations and services, education, and mechanisms to support their homes and families in the City of Edina.

Recommendation:

Staff has no legal or procedural concerns.

WHEREAS: It is the public policy of the City of Edina to secure for all of the residents of the City freedom from discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance, familial status or **national origin** in connection with employment, housing and real property, public accommodations, public services, credit and education, and to support the home, family and human relations in the City; and

WHEREAS: Edina has a foreign born population from throughout the world that increased nearly 50% in the last decade, from 2874 in the year 2000 to of 4307 in 2010, bringing the estimated 2012 foreign born population to over 9% of the total population; and

WHEREAS: Edina now ranks 66th among the 613 Minnesota cities in the percentage of the population that is foreign born; and

WHEREAS: The current United States immigration policy has resulted in large immigration backlogs, divided families, bureaucratic hurdles and difficulties for employers seeking to hire employees from foreign countries, and an estimated 11 million undocumented people from foreign countries who must live in the shadows of society where they are vulnerable to exploitation; and

WHEREAS: Immigration laws have important impacts on many employers and residents in Edina, and

WHEREAS: The United States Senate has recently passed, by a vote of 68-32, a bi-partisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that provides for securing the borders, upgrading the e-verify system for citizenship verification, eliminating the immigration backlog by 2021, providing a path to citizenship, increased penalties for human smuggling and child trafficking, and creating a large pool of talented employees to support our economy, and

WHEREAS: The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the proposed Senate immigration reform bill would not only greatly improve our economy, but would reduce the federal deficit by approximately \$875 billion in the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS: A recent American Action Network study estimates that passage of S 744 would create approximately 41,982 new jobs in Minnesota, including 12,850 in Congressional District 3 and 13,098 in Congressional District 5, and

WHEREAS: The Senate immigration bill is a compromise that is supported by both the AFL-CIO and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and a broad coalition that includes almost all religious groups in America, and

WHEREAS: The United States House of Representatives must still pass comprehensive immigration reform before it can become law,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Edina City Council hereby urges the Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reforms similar to those proposed in S 744, the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act".