

CMZ
JRC/PAH

RESOLUTION NO. 24 -2013

RECOGNIZING the immigrant community of Cincinnati and their many contributions and innovations to the local economy and the work of many local organizations on behalf of the immigrant community; **EXPRESSING** City Council's commitment to improve the lives of immigrants by promoting their public safety, family unity, healthy work environments, and greater participation in all aspects of the city; and **ENCOURAGING** the citizens of the City of Cincinnati to foster civility to and respect for immigrants.

WHEREAS, the following organizations have been working to improve the quality of life of immigrants through direct service, policy and advocacy work: American Jewish Committee, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Bridges for a Just Community, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, Cincinnati Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, College of Mount St. Joseph, Congregation of Divine Providence, Congregation of St. Joseph (Cincinnati), Diocese of Southern Ohio – Episcopal, Faith Community Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, Franciscan Friars (OFM), St. John the Baptist Province, Franciscan Justice and Peace Office, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #69 Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis, Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA, Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, LULAC-League of United Latin American Citizens, Legal Aid Society of Southwestern Ohio, MARCC-Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, Ohio Justice & Policy Center, Santa Maria Community Services, SC Ministry Foundation, Service Employees International Union Local 1, Sikh Temple Gurdwara of Greater Cincinnati, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Sisters of Mercy South Central Community, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Su Casa Hispanic Center, The AMOS Project, Unitarian-Universalists Council of Greater Cincinnati, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union - Local 75; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, civic and religious leaders from Cincinnati came together to support comprehensive federal immigration reform, resulting in the City of Cincinnati passing Resolution No. 10-2006 supporting such reform, as outlined in the McCain-Kennedy bill; and

WHEREAS, the McCain-Kennedy bill proposed reforms including additional visas for family reunification, more pathways for legalization of aspiring citizens, additional worker protections, and restoration of due process; and

WHEREAS, since that time, direct service workers, advocates, and policy makers worked with immigrants to craft administrative procedures and public policies that ensured the rule of law was fairly applied to immigrants so their families could stay together, and immigrants could continue to contribute to America's economy by building a stronger economy for the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2011, regional denominational leaders of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati and other faith based organizations announced the principles to guide Ohio's immigration discussion; and

WHEREAS, those principles addressed how to welcome immigrant students, professionals, workers, and their families while maintaining the rule of law, in the spirit of the United States of America's call to inclusion, "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one"), and further encouraged law enforcement agencies to use discretion when applying the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Police Department has, on numerous occasions, responded to situations where immigrants and their families have been victims of abuse and crime, and has used sensible discretion toward such victims, which promoted safety and built trust within our immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Cincinnati City Council passed a resolution calling for more U-Visas, which create a path to citizenship while protecting immigrants who were victims or witnesses of crimes, so they can assist law enforcement officers in arresting the offender; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Cincinnati renews its call for Congress to implement the immigration reforms proposed by the McCain-Kennedy bill; now, therefore,


BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Cincinnati City Council calls on the United States Congress and the Administration to pass and enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation this year that includes a pathway to citizenship for all aspiring citizens

Section 2. That the City of Cincinnati, other local governments in Ohio, and the Ohio General Assembly promote initiatives to more fully welcome the participation of immigrants in the vitality of the state and our respective communities.

Section 3. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: March 6, 2013

Attest: 
Clerk


Mayor

Submitted by Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls
Councilmember Yvette Simpson