

# Agenda Report

October 28, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Legislative Policy Committee (September 25, 2013)  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING A HUMANE AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM PROPOSAL**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Pasadena supporting a humane and comprehensive immigration reform proposal

## **RECOMMENDATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE:**

On September 25, 2013 the Legislative Policy Committee had a discussion on a resolution supporting a humane and comprehensive immigration reform proposal. The Committee supported forwarding this resolution to the City Council for their consideration with the intent that the resolution include language from the 2013 Federal Legislative Platform.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. Senate approved comprehensive immigration reform legislation (S 744) in June that would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, a streamlined legal immigration process, tougher interior enforcement, and increased border security. While the measure was approved in bipartisan fashion (69-31), it took approval of a floor amendment to the bill that added \$30 billion in border security initiatives to secure significant Republican support. The Senate bill does not include provisions that would mandate that local law enforcement agencies federal immigration law.

Shortly after Senate approval of its immigration bill, House Republican leadership announced its intention of considering immigration reform in a piecemeal approach

rather than in one comprehensive measure. A handful of bills dealing with matters such as creating a guest worker program, legalizing children brought into the U.S. at a young age and who are now in school ("DREAMers"), increasing enforcement, and bolstering employment verification systems have been approved on the committee level. However, none of them has been scheduled for floor action.

While there are House Republicans interested in immigration reform, there appears to be a significant faction in the GOP ranks who strongly oppose any path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and who are also likely to balk at the Senate proposal to spend an additional \$30 billion on border security. House Republican leaders have promised to not bring any immigration bill to the House floor that does not have the support of the majority of the Republican caucus, and since they will probably be consumed by budget matters from now until the end of this year, chances that the House will take up immigration legislation during that time is slim.

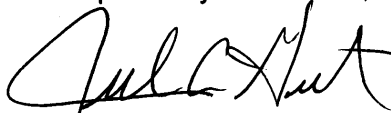
Attached to this agenda are two examples of support for immigration reform from organization that advocate the needs of cities: The National League of Cities and the League of California Cities. Attachment A from the National League of Cities is a Legislative Issue Brief titled "Fix The Nation's Broken Immigration System" in which they call for the federal government to adopt a strong and consistent national immigration policy that balances national security needs with renewed effort to grow the nation's workforce, stimulate economy recovery, and remain competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global market. Attachment B is a letter from the League of California Cities to Senator Feinstein asking for prompt action on this legislation in concert with the principles that include: do not to mandate local enforcement of federal immigration laws and assistance to local governments affected by new immigrants.

At the September 2013 regular meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee, Vice Mayor Robinson introduced Rita Medina, a representative from the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA). Ms. Medina made a presentation on immigration reform and working towards a fair and humane path to citizenship that is included as Attachment C. As noted in the presentation, the Los Angeles County is home to nearly one million undocumented immigrants. An estimated 11% of the Los Angeles County workforce is undocumented and 20% of the children in Los Angeles county have at least on undocumented parent. According to our 2010 census date, Pasadena is made up of 31% of foreign born persons.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Support of this resolution will not have any fiscal impact to the City.

Respectfully submitted,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ  
Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager