



1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
TDD (202) 293-9445  
URL: [www.usmayors.org/uscm](http://www.usmayors.org/uscm)

# IMMIGRATION POLICY RESOLUTIONS

## 2006-2008

### 2008 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

#### INCREASING CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION STAFFING AND IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF ENTRY

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the dual role of facilitating trade and travel while ensuring the safety and security of our country; and

**WHEREAS**, CBP is the lead federal agency in charge of inspecting travelers entering the country at more than 300 international air, land, and sea ports of entry; and

**WHEREAS**, CBP is responsible for protecting against entry of illegal persons, contraband, and cargo through our international ports; and

**WHEREAS**, according to CBP's own staffing model, the agency needs to hire up to 4,000 more CBP Officers and Agriculture Specialists, in addition to support personnel, in order to effectively perform its dual anti-terrorism, trade and travel facilitation mission; and

**WHEREAS**, the President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal would fund only 527 additional frontline CBP Officers and no additional CBP Agriculture Specialists hires; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent Government Accountability Office report (GAO08-219) documented that insufficient CBP staffing at the ports of entry has resulted in excessive overtime and scheduling that contribute to morale problems, fatigue, and safety issues, and that CBP is losing personnel faster than it can hire replacements; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate infrastructure capacity at land border crossings is documented to create traffic congestion and delays for cross-border freight movements and personal trips that cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars in foregone gross output, labor income, and employment; and

**WHEREAS**, current CBP staffing at many of the largest international airports is not sufficient to clear passenger levels on a timely basis, and modeling forecasts anticipate increased delays, including holding airplanes and passengers on the tarmac, impacting scheduling and overall capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Silvestre Reyes introduced H.R. 5662 in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress that would, subject to Congressional appropriations, authorize adequate



increases in the number of full-time CBP Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists, and security support personnel over the next four years, and would authorize an appropriation of \$5 billion over five years to improve infrastructure at existing ports of entry and for other purposes outlined within infrastructure assessment studies required in prior law,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports enactment of legislation that would increase funding to assure adequate U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff resources and improve border entry infrastructure; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase FY 2009 funding levels for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, but specifically requiring use of those funds to hire full-time CBP Officers, CBP Agriculture Specialists, and security support personnel solely to meet the needs at international air, land, and sea ports of entry.

### **CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WHICH PROMOTES THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES, PROVIDES LEGAL STATUS WITH A PATH TO EARNED CITIZENSHIP, AND A PLAN FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE IMMIGRANT WORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the economic, social and cultural contributions immigrants bring to their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the responsibility of municipal leaders is to protect the wellbeing and safety of all the people residing in their cities; and

**WHEREAS**, many local governments have passed resolutions, ordinances and policy directives reaffirming non-participation in the enforcement of civil immigration law by city officials and agencies to promote immigrant trust in its police and avert racial profiling and civil rights violations; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Association of Chiefs of Police *Guide to Immigration Issues* concludes that local police leaders face a growing set of immigration related duties in the face of scarce and narrowing resources; and

**WHEREAS**, raids and deportations are increasing in scope and number in recent weeks and months, separating families and spreading terror in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the separation of families by the enforcement of our current immigration laws and supports the reunification of families that have been so separated, especially those "mixed status" families with U.S. citizen children of which there are an estimated four million children currently in this country; and

**WHEREAS**, the national political debate on immigration reform has tended to polarize our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of local governments to respect the rights of and provide equal services to all individuals regardless of national origin or immigration status,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by The U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the President of the United States to issue an executive order to cease and desist in the execution of all raids and deportations that do not relate to our national security or to



criminal activity until comprehensive immigration reform is completed and to suspend immediately all deportations of parents with U.S. citizen children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive immigration reform which promotes the reunification of families, provides legal status with a path to earned citizenship to the estimated 12 million undocumented workers and designs a plan for current and future immigrant workers.

### **U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the United States is a nation of immigrants, the overwhelming majority of whom are making an important and positive contribution to both our economy and our culture; and

**WHEREAS**, immigration reform is one of the most pressing issues facing The U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has not been able to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, as a consequence of such inaction has been a dramatic increase in identity theft of the Social Security numbers of U.S. citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to a lack of a workable immigration policy, our country is inhabited by more than 12 million undocumented individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these undocumented individuals are working in well-established businesses that contribute significantly to the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, responsible employers often have to rely on documentation that appears facially valid in order to determine an individual's status to accept employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the current federal E-Verify system has not been reliable in ascertaining a prospective employee's right to work; and,

**WHEREAS**, some employers will prey upon undocumented workers, with substandard wages, long hours and unsafe working conditions, knowing these workers will not complain to authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Immigration & Custom Enforcement (ICE) has increased worksite enforcement activities;

**WHEREAS**, ICE worksite enforcement activities are often the result of "anonymous" tips from the competitors of legitimate employers, thereby using ICE raids to disrupt production; and,

**WHEREAS**, ICE enforcement activities targeting companies that have had no record or suspicion of engagement in exploitative practices will negatively impact local economies and may drive employers to locate manufacturing facilities overseas; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE has limited resources and time to conduct worksite enforcement activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement to develop a national policy for its workforce enforcement activities that focuses on employers with a demonstrated history or reasonable suspicion of engaging



in exploitative practices, such as violation of wage, hour or occupational safety laws and regulations;  
and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ICE not prioritize responsible employers for worksite enforcement activities before accurate verification systems are available or comprehensive immigration reform regularizes the status of workers on whom they rely; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ICE should strive to keep in close communication with the nation's mayors when conducting worksite enforcement activities in their cities.



## 2007 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

**WHEREAS**, our federal immigration system is broken and has become mismatched to the economic and social realities of cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing system has created waiting lists for most categories of family reunification to grow longer than five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States federal government and many employers, through practices and policies that are entirely inconsistent with federal laws, have led millions of immigrant workers to believe they are allowed to work in the U.S. without appropriate documentation; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. economy requires hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, far exceeding the outdated quotas currently placed on visas for foreign workers; and

**WHEREAS**, authorized and unauthorized foreign workers have become essential to the functioning of local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate border and internal enforcement mechanisms have allowed an increasing number of unauthorized workers to reside in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the current system has caused societal strain in cities because of the system's tendency to push unauthorized workers into second-class status; and

**WHEREAS**, federal attempts to deputize local police to enforce federal immigration law have chilled budding relationships between local police and immigrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal effort at deputizing local police with limited immigration authority has the tendency to distract local police departments from their principal charge of preventing crime, ensuring public safety, and serving local communities,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive immigration reform that would improve security, bolster economic prosperity, and provide the approximately 12 million people already in the U.S. without legal authorization an opportunity to earn their permanent residence and citizenship, provided (1) they have not committed serious crimes, (2) they have learned, or are in the process of learning English, and (3) they pay taxes and social security on their earnings.

### U.S. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY POLICY

**WHEREAS**, the topics of immigration reform, border security, and state and federal cooperation on these issues are of great importance to The United States Conference of Mayors; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States is a nation of immigrants, a nation in which immigrants have made and continue to make important contributions to both our economy and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, studies reveal that immigrants are a major source of tax revenue; and



**WHEREAS**, immigrants have demonstrated their patriotism through their valor and bravery in defending this country in numerous military conflicts; and

**WHEREAS**, border security is critical to the safety, quality of life, and economic prosperity of the border regions of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, our historical receptiveness toward immigrants reflects our faith in the American ideal, that it is possible for all men and women to improve their status via hard work, and that opportunity should be denied to no one on the basis of their race or country of origin; and

**WHEREAS**, though today's immigrants, like yesterday's, may arrive in the United States with no money, looking different and speaking foreign languages, they come with an entrepreneurial spirit and desire to live the American Dream; and

**WHEREAS**, immigrants come to the United States because we are a nation that cherishes individual freedom and rewards individual effort; and

**WHEREAS**, across the world, walls erected to divide peoples and nations are symbols of failed and repressive efforts to thwart human freedom and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, enforcement of federal immigration laws is neither a state nor local responsibility and further that state and local agencies do not have the training, expertise or authority to enforce immigration laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the principle of posse comitatus, meaning the necessary and traditional separation of civilian and military authority, is critical and should be renewed and strengthened; and

**WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Mayors has been, and remains, committed to the protection of civil rights, liberties and security for all peoples as expressed in the United States Constitution,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on our nation's immigration policies to the following principles: Economics/Fiscal Impact Limited state resources should not be diverted to support policies and initiatives that tolerate or result in racial profiling in our communities. Instead of wasting precious resources on erecting a wall, the federal government should invest now in secure, fast and smart technology solutions to afford fast movement in our Hemisphere of people and products. Initiatives aimed at promoting investment and economic opportunities in Mexico, such as the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Prosperity and Mexico's 3 for 1 program that encourages the use of remittances to build local infrastructure and economic development in Mexico, should be supported. Legislation that authorizes additional federal funds to states and hospitals for reimbursement of the indirect and direct costs related to emergency health services, prosecution, and the incarceration of undocumented immigrants should be supported. Education A temporary worker program that allows employers to sponsor low-skilled immigrant workers to obtain a permanent residence status should be supported. Undocumented students under the age of 21 should be able to satisfy the requirements under such a program by attending an institution of higher education or a secondary school full-time. Our nation must remain committed to the constitutional principles that guarantee a public education for all children regardless of their immigration status. Legal/Political o Legislation that focuses solely on enforcement will be ineffective. Our nation needs and should support fair and comprehensive immigration legislation that balances border security concerns with a recognition of the demands of the U.S. for workers in the numerous sectors of the U.S. labor force, including agriculture, construction, and the service economy. Local law enforcement should not be required to stop, interrogate, detain or otherwise participate in immigration enforcement activities. Our nation should offer a path to citizenship, under clearly defined guidelines, to immigrants who have demonstrated citizenship, paid taxes, and parented citizen children and grandchildren. Legislation that provides a larger number of employment and family-based green cards to promote family unification, reduce backlogs in application processing, and that demands sensitive quotas, should be supported.



Security Federal resources should be focused on strategies to improve interdiction at our borders. It is the federal government's obligation to fund and oversee a robust Border Patrol. The United States should embrace technological solutions that offer low-cost alternatives to the interdiction efforts of local law enforcement that lead inevitably to racial profiling. The development and implementation of plans regarding information-sharing, international and federal-state- local coordination, technology, and anti-smuggling should be supported. The development of multilateral agreements to establish a North American security plan to improve border security should be supported. Measures that would include anti-fraud measures and biometric data on all visa and immigration documents should be supported. The ongoing implementation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America between the U.S., Canada and Mexico aimed at establishing a common security strategy, competitiveness, quality of life, and to promote economic growth by streamlining the secure movement of low-risk traffic across our shared borders, should be supported. Social Justice Legislation that promotes any action by civilians individual or groups - that interfere with the duties of United States law enforcement officials in securing the border region should be condemned. This should include the apprehension of individuals, the use of any weapons against individuals, or purporting to act in any law enforcement capacity. Legislation that criminalizes immigrants, their families, and the organizations that provide assistance to them, should be condemned. Legislation or any acts that violate the human rights of immigrants, documented or undocumented should be condemned. Law enforcement agencies, both federal and state, must treat all immigrants with respect and dignity and adhere to the legal rights they are entitled under state, federal or international treaties, especially the rights of minors through the utilization of procedures and programs that protect them.

## 2006 Adopted Resolutions

### IN SUPPORT OF BORDER SECURITY AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the world seeking a better life for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, immigrants have made enormous contributions to our nation's economic, cultural, and political life, and these contributions have been recognized and honored throughout our history and across the political spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented workers fill key roles in our city's and state's economy by paying taxes, including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back, raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation in Congress seeks to criminalize the presence of these very same undocumented workers; and

**WHEREAS**, our national immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

**WHEREAS**, the current national immigration system, which separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security programs, contributes to labor abuses and results in deaths on the United States border, must be reformed to provide undocumented immigrants a path for citizenship, reunification of families, strengthening of security at our nation's borders, and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a viable guest worker program is warranted to address the labor and employment needs of our nation's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, by restoring order to our immigration system, such reform will make our nation more secure as well as meet our labor needs and uphold our basic values as a nation; and



**WHEREAS**, the need for common-sense and humane immigration reform is recognized by President Bush and members of both major political parties, and is supported by the leaders of business, organized labor, and faith communities; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the United States Senate have forged a tentative agreement that would go a long way toward comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the nation's needs for security and employment, while also providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to approve and sign comprehensive immigration reform legislation that strengthens our nation's border security, includes a fair and efficient guest worker program, and provides a path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented people who live and work in the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes efforts to criminalize undocumented workers for their presence in the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors restates our opposition to efforts in the United States Congress to impose an unfunded federal mandate on local governments by requiring local governments, without reimbursement or training, to enforce immigration violations that are by their nature a Federal responsibility or by reducing local government's Federal grants in an attempt to coerce them into enforcing Federal immigration laws.

### **COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, our federal immigration system has broken and become mismatched to the economic and social realities of cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing system has created waiting lists for most categories of family reunification to grow longer than five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States federal government and many employers, through practices and policies that are entirely inconsistent with federal laws, have led millions of immigrant workers to believe they are allowed to work in the U.S. without appropriate documentation; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. economy requires hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, far exceeding the outdated quotas currently placed on visas for foreign workers; and

**WHEREAS**, authorized and unauthorized foreign workers have become essential to the functioning of local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate border and internal enforcement mechanisms have allowed an increasing number of unauthorized workers to reside in the U.S., and

**WHEREAS**, the current system has caused societal strain in cities because of the system's tendency to push unauthorized workers into second-class status; and

**WHEREAS**, federal attempts to deputize local police to enforce federal immigration law have chilled budding relationships between local police and immigrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal effort at deputizing local police with limited immigration authority has the tendency to distract local police departments from their principal charge of preventing crime, ensuring public safety, and serving local communities,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive immigration reform that would improve security, bolster economic prosperity, and provide the approximately 12 million people already in the U.S. without legal authorization an opportunity to earn their permanent residence and citizenship, provided (1) they have not committed



serious crimes, (2) they have learned, or are in the process of learning English, and (3) they pay taxes and social security on their earnings.