



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: July 8, 2015

To: Chair Elizabeth Glidden and Vice Chair Alondra Cano

Referral to: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Report Regarding Immigration Policy and President's November 2014 Actions.

Recommendation: Receive and File Report

Previous Directives: 2015 Federal Legislative Policy Agenda amended on December 12, 2014, to include support for the President's actions regarding an expanded deferred action program.

Staff directives adopted December 1, 2014 for (1) IGR to lead a staff working group to follow the issue and recommend City Council action, and (2) the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department to coordinate efforts to provide planning, supportive services and outreach for the implementation of the President's actions.

Department Information

Prepared by: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director, x2051; David Rubedor, NCR Director, X3129

Approved by: Gene Ranieri and David Rubedor

Presenters in Committee: IGR and NCR staff

Supporting Information:

In anticipation of the President's announcement regarding immigration, staff of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) and Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) formed a work group to develop a city response to the President's actions. On November 20, 2014, the President announced the new program. The work group's first meeting was Friday, November 21. Members of the work group included staff from the Mayor's Office, NCR, IGR, 311, City Attorney's Office and Communications. The agenda included a review of the President's actions, a timeline for implementation, possible city actions in response to the President's directive and next steps.

The staff indicated that prior to recommending any city actions, additional information was required. Among the information identified was the timeline to accept applications, what other agencies and cities were planning, the anticipated number of potential applicants living in Minneapolis and what was the preferred method to communicate with affected communities. The staff expressed a preference that the city role should focus on communicating information and not providing individual legal services or representation. Such methods as videos, radio announcements, community meetings and newsletters were suggested as possible communication vehicles. Social media was also identified.

IGR, NCR and Mayor's Office staff attended or arranged meetings from November 2014 to January 2015 with the Minneapolis Foundation, the local United States Customs and Immigrations Services Office and staff from the Office of Congressman Ellison and the Immigration Law Center. In addition IGR staff attended a community meeting where staff from Waite House, NCR and Advocates for Human Rights presented the President's program and responded to numerous questions and concerns from those in attendance.

As a result of the meetings and discussions, the initial city focus - communicating information - was affirmed at a work group meeting in January. It was also noted that numerous agencies were involved in developing strategies to assist potential applicants. The work group also suggested that coordination with other organizations was essential to avoid duplication of efforts and to provide consistent, accurate information. With the advent of the Minnesota legislative session and the staff directions adopted during the budget process, NCR assumed the task of developing and implementing the city's response.

NCR staff began working with the Latino Engagement Task Force (LETF) to help formulate the city response. Once the budget decision was made to allocate \$50,000 for this effort, NCR staff interacted with the community organizations and individuals to develop a city response that would support a community information center and a city communications program.

NCR had discussions with a group of community organizations to develop a Communications Center that will be located at Mercado Central. The Communications Center will be run by the Advocates for Human Rights and Pillsbury United Communities as the main partners. A second group of partners include: Corcoran, Powderhorn and Central Neighborhood, CLAC, HACER, LEDC, Immigration Law Center (ILC), and the Work Force Center. The purpose of the Communication Center is to provide information and comprehensive services for people affected by the executive order with the following:

- a) Fraud prevention. Reduce the number of people who become victims of fraud by conducting regular workshops and by having regular office hours where people come for help to ask questions.
- b) Inform people of the documentations they need and places where they can get them, such as consulate, IRS, etc.
- c) Build the physical and programmatic infrastructure to support people with achieving financial stability. People will be supported (or referred to) career services, employers, Hennepin County Human Services, and home ownership workshops, etc.
- d) Conduct professional development workshops for people seeking to gain skills.

NCR has also continued discussions with the Communications Department to support their role in this effort (as previously mentioned). It is our preliminary estimate that of the amount budgeted, \$40,000, will go to support the Communication Center and \$10,000 to support the City's Communication Department.

As of July 8, 2015, the President's actions have not been implemented due to a court challenge. The case is currently before the federal Appeals Court in New Orleans. A decision should be released soon.