



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

**Offered by Councillors Felix D. Arroyo,
Sam Yoon, Chuck Turner and Jerry McDermott
(Feeney, Flaherty, Consalvo, Murphy, Ross, and Yancey)**

- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston was founded upon the dreams, traditions, industriousness and labor of immigrants, 25% of Boston's current residents are immigrants born outside of the United States, and 92% of Massachusetts' labor growth (2000-2004) was reportedly due to new immigrants; and
- WHEREAS:** Boston has the fifth highest proportion of immigrant residents among the twenty-three largest U.S. cities, with more than 140 foreign languages spoken by residents and more than 33% of the population speaking more than one language at home; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council recognizes the dignity of all our immigrant residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the importance of their many contributions to the social, religious, cultural and economic life of the City; and
- WHEREAS:** The difficulties faced by those seeking political asylum and the children born in Boston to parents given Temporary Protected Status who now face possible deportation, shed light on current policies that can lead to the unjustified loss of highly-valued Boston residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council opposes any efforts to transfer federal immigration responsibility to state and local officials, since these proposals might damage relationships with immigrant communities. Asking local law enforcement to check immigration status would tax our already overburdened police department and might also make immigrants more fearful of cooperating with law enforcement and reporting crime; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council believes that criminalizing U.S. citizens, those who work with and for immigrants, and immigrants themselves is not a viable long-term solution to concerns over immigration and will continue separating families while preventing civic participation by all community members; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council believes there is no inherent conflict between national security and the preservation of liberty, and affirms its strong support for all U.S. military personnel serving at home or abroad, condemns all terrorist acts wherever occurring and recognizes the importance of ensuring homeland security; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has played a leading role in the protection of immigrant rights and has consistently promoted tolerance and respect for all residents, including immigrants, United States Citizens and their families; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for comprehensive immigration reform that combines a path to permanent status for immigrants already here and wider legal channels for those coming in the future with humane and effective enforcement at our borders.

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