

RESOLUTION NO. 07-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA, URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND U.S. SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO CONSIDER IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED, NON-CRIMINAL IMMIGRANTS AND PROSPECTIVE BENEFICIARIES OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM LEGISLATION CURRENTLY PENDING IN CONGRESS

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform legislation, including a generous path to legalization for millions of undocumented, non-criminal immigrants in the United States, was adopted by the U.S. Senate last May and is supported by the President and leading members of Congress and the Florida Congressional Delegation; and

WHEREAS, undocumented, non-criminal immigrants have families and U.S. born children, work hard, pay taxes, own businesses and contribute to the social, cultural and economic life of Miami-Dade County; and;

WHEREAS, detentions and deportations destroy families, traumatize U.S. born children and disrupt the economic and social cohesion of our community; and

WHEREAS, it is immoral to detain and deport persons who may benefit from comprehensive immigration reform legislation which many citizens support and which it is anticipated that Congress may enact this year; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is one of the most diverse counties in the U.S., and there are estimates that sixty percent (60%) of its population hail from abroad; and

WHEREAS, Florida's prosperous agricultural, tourism, construction and other industries depend on the work and contributions of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, many who have fled political repression and turmoil in their homelands, instead of receiving a full measure of justice and fairness, have too often, as a result of their immigration status, been relegated to second-class citizenship and lives of fear, insecurity, intimidation and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that approximately 5,000 children each year grow up in Florida and graduate from Florida high schools, but through no fault of their own, lack proper immigration documents making them unable to secure drivers' licenses or to afford college, and causing them to live in fear of their parents' or their own deportation to lands they may have never known and whose languages they may not speak; and

WHEREAS, current U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detention and deportation policies, unintentionally cause panic, fear and family separations, impeding our need to build strong families and social networks; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade's Congressional Delegation strongly champions fair and generous comprehensive immigration reform legislation which provides a mechanism for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence in the United States to keep families together; and

WHEREAS, current DHS enforcement actions may operate to threaten Miami-Dade children, families and communities by unnecessarily detaining and deporting thousands of individuals who may soon benefit from immigration reform legislation.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA THAT:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That the above stated recitals are hereby adopted and confirmed.

Section 2. Support for Reform. That the City Council of the City of Homestead, Florida respectfully requests that the President of the United States and the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security consider imposing an immediate moratorium on all detentions and deportations of undocumented, non-criminal immigrants pending the outcome of fair and comprehensive immigration reform legislation currently pending before Congress.

Section 3. Distribution. That the City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, and to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation, and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Section 4. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2007.

ROSCOE WARREN
Mayor

ATTEST:

SHEILA PAUL SHEDD, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN PASTORIZA COLE & BONISKE, P.L.
City Attorney