

Introduced by: Councilmember Snipper

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2009-71
REAFFIRMING TAKOMA PARK'S SUPPORT OF ITS NEWCOMERS
AND URGING ENACTMENT
OF FEDERAL COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, in Takoma Park we continue to believe in a community where people trust their government and each other, a community that welcomes and values all of its residents, treating them with human dignity and respect, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the importance of their many contributions to the social, religious, cultural, and economic life of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, the current immigration system results in a shadow economy of fear and exploitation that is detrimental to all; and

WHEREAS, our nation's immigration system continues to be broken; and

WHEREAS, the failure to achieve comprehensive reform undermines respect for *all* immigrants and engenders an atmosphere of divisiveness and mistrust that is unhealthy for our society, and especially harmful for a diverse community like Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, the integration of immigrants in a rational legal manner is critical to ensuring that our city, counties, and states continue to have strong communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States urgently needs legislation to correct the failings of our immigration system, to recognize the crucial contributions immigrants make to our nation, to enable employers to legally hire needed immigrant workers, to protect all workers regardless of immigration status from mistreatment by employers, to facilitate family reunification, and to restore civil rights and civil liberties to all;

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would restore the rule of law, enhance the security of the United States, and reflect the core values of the nation, including fairness, equality of opportunity, and individual justice, while resulting in realistic, enforceable laws;

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would help build healthy families and communities in our city by bringing immigrants out of the shadows;

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would remove barriers that make it difficult for immigrants to access vital local services and to actively participate in civic activities; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would give undocumented immigrants who have been living and working in Takoma Park a path to permanent legal status and citizenship; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform would help eliminate the tremendous backlog in family immigration to reunite families nationwide and would create legal and orderly processes for people who want to come to the United States to work; and

WHEREAS, punitive legislation that is not comprehensive and targets immigrants could have severe local consequences, including the division of families; the criminalization of socially beneficial work being performed by local agencies, churches, and businesses that work with undocumented workers; the elimination of judicial review and due process for valued city residents; and the undermining of trust between City residents and their government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MARYLAND that this resolution may be cited as the "Fair National Immigration Reform Resolution of 2009;" and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Takoma Park calls on the Federal government to enact comprehensive immigration reform that will include strong border security and provide sufficient resources to ensure an effective and timely processing of those eligible for legal permanent residency or naturalization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Takoma Park expresses its appreciation to all people from around the country and around the world who have made Takoma Park their home and in so doing have helped make Takoma Park one of the most vibrant, safe, diverse, and economically successful communities in the United States.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President and the Honorable Members of the Maryland Delegation to the Congress.

Adopted this 23rd day of November, 2009.

Attest:


Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk