RESOLUTION NO. 2015-R-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR SMITH JOSEPH TO THE CITIES UNITED FOR IMMIGRATION ACTION COALITION AND TAKING NECESSARY ACTION TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE COALITION ; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of North Miami ("City') is a community that celebrates diversity and appreciates the immense economic, social and cultural contributions that immigrants have made to this city, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, our nation's current broken federal immigration system hinders the City's ability to maximize economic growth and its efforts to address the socioeconomic issues which exist in our community; and

WHEREAS, a June 2014 poll from the Brookings institution and the Public Religion Research Institute indicates that sixty-two (62) percent of Americans favor a path allowing undocumented immigrants to become citizens and that seventy-nine (79) percent are in favor of allowing legal residency; and

WHEREAS, our nation is in urgent need of comprehensive immigration reform to adequately address issues for all citizens and our immigrant population relating to public safety, national security, economic prosperity and respect for human rights and civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, President Obama took executive action on November 20, 2014 to normalize the status of approximately five (5) million of the estimated eleven (11) million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the President's executive action will strengthen public safety in this community and help dissipate the fear that pervades the lives of many immigrant and mixed-status families; and

WHEREAS, the Cities United for Immigration Action Coalition ("Coalition") was formed to assist in the implementation of President Obama's executive action on the local level, as well as to continue to urge congressional action on immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council support the work of the Coalition and desire to appoint Mayor Smith Joseph to the Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the City also desires to support the Coalition's efforts by instituting a community awareness initiative and taking other actions to facilitate the mission and goals of the Coalition as outlined in the Mayors Challenge. (Attached hereto as Exhibit A).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. **Appointment.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby appoint Mayor Smith Joseph to the Cities United for Immigration Action Coalition.

Section 2. **Support**. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby support the mission of the Coalition.

Section 3. **Community Awareness Initiative.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, authorize the City Administration to do all things necessary to implement the mission of the Coalition and institute a community awareness initiative.

Section 4. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5-0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 10th day of February, 2015.

DR. SMITH JOSEPH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHAEL A. ETIENNE, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

REGINE M. MONESTIME
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR SMITH JOSEPH, DO

Moved by: Keys

Seconded by: Steril

Vote:

Mayor Smith Joseph, DO	x (Yes)	____ (No)
Vice Mayor Carol Keys, Esq.	x (Yes)	____ (No)
Councilperson Scott Galvin	x (Yes)	____ (No)
Councilperson Philippe Bien-Aime	x (Yes)	____ (No)
Councilperson Marie Erlande Steril	x (Yes)	____ (No)

CITIES UNITED FOR IMMIGRATION ACTION

MAYORS CHALLENGE

The Mayors Challenge is a way to effectively use the bully pulpit, solidify partnerships, and secure commitments to guarantee the effective implementation of the President's Executive Action on Immigration and to advocate for comprehensive reform.

1. **Launch a mayoral "war room" for federal action on immigration reform.** With the Cities United for Immigration Action coalition and in time for the new Congress, mayors will come together to build a mayoral war room for federal action to support long-term legislative reform on immigration that advances our national interest, reflects our values, and promotes citizenship. Additionally, mayors will work with the newly created White House Task Force on New Americans to identify and advocate for ways to best serve diverse communities.

2. **Establish local Cities United for Immigration Action coalitions.** In each city, mayors will convene a local coalition of key stakeholders, such as immigrant rights groups, faith, labor, students, business, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement, to support executive action, and urge Congress to press forward with comprehensive immigration reform. These local coalitions will launch in the next month and will begin their activities with a coordinated national day of action. These coalitions will lift up local stories about immigration and amplify the need for reform.

3. **Safeguard immigrants from fraudulent services.** Beginning immediately, cities will form a working group of relevant city agencies and stakeholders, such as local law enforcement, district attorneys, state attorneys general, and bar associations to develop and distribute multilingual advisories regarding fraudulent services. Each city will work to ensure that their immigrant constituencies are receiving accurate information, through the sources they trust. And cities will make sure their constituents have access to legal support to facilitate the application process and to safeguard them from predatory schemes.

4. **Reach all eligible applicants through community outreach and public education.** Mayors will immediately and proactively engage their constituents to make them aware of the opportunities, risks, and steps needed to avail themselves of the benefits of the executive action. Through community outreach and public education efforts, mayors, local coalitions, and community partners will mobilize to get the word out to all corners of their cities about the executive action and to refute misinformation. Briefings with community and ethnic media as well as digital media will be helpful tools.

5. **Assess services and programs to ensure efficient and affordable delivery of services to maximize enrollment by city residents.** Mayors will direct a review within 60 days of existing local resources, programs, and policies in search of ways to cut red tape, reduce the costs incurred in collecting documentation, and speed up access to application assistance. Cities will then pursue the recommendations of the review.

#CitiesforAction #ImmigrationAction