

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-184

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, over the past year, cities across the country have faced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis caused by national and global forces, and have stepped up to welcome a large influx of asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, mayors from across the country have launched innovative and humane programs to support the newly arrived immigrants, including providing shelter, food, legal services, education, healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the ability to work is essential for asylum seekers and our immigrant communities to obtain financial stability and independence; and

WHEREAS, employers in cities across the country are facing a tight labor market with a dire shortage of workers in various industries, and according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of job openings available across the country has outpaced the number of people looking for work; and

WHEREAS, under federal law and regulation, non-citizens cannot legally work in the United States unless they have work authorization from the federal government, which for most non-citizens, means seeking an Employment Authorization Document (“EAD”), which requirements preempt and prevent localities from directly issuing work authorization to non-citizens; and

WHEREAS, current government processing of EADs has been limited by delays and bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, cities understand that the federal government has broad power over the subject of immigration, where Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution grants to Congress the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, however, cities

also understand that until the late 19th century, particular immigration issues were largely left up to individual localities and states to regulate; and

WHEREAS, cities must be able to respond proactively both to the labor shortage and the influx of new arrivals who are ready, willing, and able to contribute to their new home; and

WHEREAS, the Trump-era Title 42 policy is set to lift on May 11, 2023, which will result in a further increase in the number of asylum seekers entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, immigration requires a comprehensive federal response that does not rely on harmful solutions like Title 42 but instead focuses on addressing root causes of migration and meets the needs of those seeking safety and their receiving communities; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments are facing enormous strains on their resources due to the huge influx of asylum seekers and an enormous backlog in immigration court; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has been awarded a small amount of funding to assist jurisdictions, but this funding is not sufficient to support the existing populations, let alone a sizeable increase over the next several months; and

WHEREAS, granting asylum seekers access to work authorization will allow them to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible and mitigate the need for external funding; and

WHEREAS, there are three policy tools that governments could use to assist non-citizens in obtaining work authorization: (1) faster processing times for EADs, (2) expanding and extending parole status so humanitarian parolees do not lose their ability to work or apply for work, and (3) expanding the applicability of Temporary Protection Status (TPS); and

WHEREAS, a bold partnership between all levels of government is needed to address the current humanitarian crisis and uphold our values as a nation of immigrants,

including the federal government authorizing municipalities to establish eligibility requirements for work permits in their jurisdiction.

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

Section 1. Incorporation. The above WHEREAS clauses are hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution.

Section 2. Call to Congress. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby calls upon Congress and the federal government to authorize municipalities to establish eligibility requirements for work permits in their jurisdiction and to provide significant resources to assist state and local governments with providing services to asylum seekers.

Section 3. Support. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami supports three basic tools the executive branch could use to assist non-citizens in obtaining work authorization: (1) faster processing times for EADs, (2) expanding and extending parole status so humanitarian parolees do not lose their ability to work or apply for work, and (3) expanding the applicability of Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

Section 4. Conflicts. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its passage and 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 October, 2023.


ALIX DESULME, ED.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST:



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DESULME

Moved by: Desulme

Seconded by: Charles

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) _____ (No)
Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) _____ (No)
Councilman Scott Galvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) _____ (No)
Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) _____ (No)
Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles, M.Ed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes) _____ (No)