

RESOLUTION No. _____

The City of Portland acknowledges barriers exist for Portland’s immigrant and refugee communities and affirms its commitment to the inclusion of immigrants and refugees in civic and public life. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, according to 2000 U.S. Census data, one out of every eight residents in the greater Portland Tri-County area is foreign-born and—in some East Portland neighborhoods—immigrants represent one out of every three residents; and

WHEREAS, City Civil Rights Code 23.01.010 states that the City of Portland is committed to improving the lives of all its residents and strives to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or source of income because such discrimination poses a threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Portland and foundation of our community; and

WHEREAS, City Ordinance No. 91214, passed by City Council on February 21st, 1955, amends Article 27 of Police Code to include language to ensure all places of public accommodation be opened to all persons without discrimination because of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin; and

WHEREAS, our diverse immigrant population is protected from undue scrutiny as law enforcement is prohibited from detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship residing in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland reaffirms its long and distinguished tradition of protecting the civil rights and liberties of all persons as expressed in the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland greatly benefits from the many contributions of its immigrant and refugee community members; and

WHEREAS, the outreach conducted by visionPDX to several immigrant and refugee communities in Portland has identified barriers to their full civic participation in our city; and

WHEREAS, Community Connect is working to remove barriers to participation and increase immigrant and refugee participation in local decision-making; and

WHEREAS, certain portions of federal anti-terrorism and immigration policies adopted in recent years have created an environment of mistrust between immigrant and refugee communities and all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for realistic and comprehensive approach to immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship; addresses the immigration backlog to unify families; and provides a safe, legal and orderly avenue for migrant workers to enter the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, a path to citizenship for immigrant workers provides a way for this workforce population to safely migrate to the U.S. and benefit from worker protections and the rights of labor; and

WHEREAS, our national security should include border policies that both protect national security and the human rights of all individuals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland urges federal government to create a fair and humane immigration reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland supports federal, state and local policies that seek to improve access to government and better involve all immigrant and refugee communities in our civic life and city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City supports the establishment of a short term task force of immigrant and refugee community members, city representatives and other stakeholders to investigate barriers experienced by Portland's growing immigrant and refugee population and identify possible solutions; and they are to report back to the City Council by September 1, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Governor and to each Oregon Senator and Representative in the Congress of the United States.

Adopted by the Council: GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland

By Mayor Tom Potter
Commissioner Sam Adams
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Erik Sten

Prepared by:
Carmen Rubio, Mayor's Office staff