REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE:

April 9, 2013

FROM:

Ray E. Corpuz, Jr., City Manager

BY:

Jim Pia, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT:

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

RESOLUTION

Agenda Item Number

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RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council consider and approve the attached resolution supporting comprehensive immigration reform and urging action from the 113th United States Congress.

DISCUSSION:

Immigration reform is important for our City, our Salinas Valley and the United States. At the request of Councilmembers Barrera and De La Rosa, the attached resolution describing the importance of comprehensive immigration reform is being brought to the full Council for consideration. Highlights of the resolution include:

- 1. A recognition that our City, the Salinas Valley and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking immigrants.
- 2. Our nation's current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our City of Salinas values.
- Immigration is a federal responsibility and a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen our City's and our nation's economy and frees aspiring citizens to make an even greater contribution to our community.
- 4. The resolution calls on the 113th United States Congress to take action on immigration reform in 2013.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council approve the attached resolution supporting comprehensive immigration reform urging action from the 113th United States Congress?

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City by approving the attached resolution on comprehensive immigration reform. It is hoped that important action on immigration reform is taken by the U.S. Congress, and that action will work to strengthen the national economy as well as local economies throughout the United States.

TIME CONSIDERATION:

For the first time in many years, communities throughout the United States are hopeful that the 113th Congress is poised to take meaningful action relating to immigration reform. As our nation moves toward possible progress in comprehensive immigration reform, it is important that the Council consider and adopt this resolution to be sent to the U.S. Congress.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

1. Not adopt the resolution and provide staff direction on how to proceed.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council consider and approve the attached resolution supporting comprehensive immigration reform and urging action from the 113th United States Congress.

Distribution: City Council City Manager City Attorney Department Directors Back Up Pages: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.	20360	(N.C.S.)
RESULUTION NO.	20000	(11.0.0.)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALINAS SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND URGING ACTION FROM THE 113th UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Salinas is calling on the 113th United States Congress to take action on immigration reform in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Our City of Salinas, the Salinas Valley and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government's inability to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and political strains here and in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Becoming a citizen in the United States means taking a solemn oath to uphold our nation's Constitution, and

WHEREAS, Keeping families together not only is the right thing to do, but is also good for the economy because families provide a base of support that increases worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.'s current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our City of Salinas values; and

WHEREAS, Immigration is federal responsibility and a comprehensive approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen our City's and our nation's economy and frees aspiring citizens to make an even greater contribution to our communities; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government's inability to enact immigration reform has created severe economic, cultural and political strains here and in communities across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that builds the strength and unity of working people, keeps families together, and guarantees the same rights, obligations, and basic fairness for all workers, no matter where they come from; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. if they meet reasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform must provide a mechanism for aspiring citizens who have grown up in this country to become U.S. citizens and be able to fully contribute to our joint future; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation's labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, Any new worker visa program must provide for strict compliance with U.S. labor standards and wage and hour standards; portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, Understanding the importance agriculture plays in the economy of Monterey County, securing a reliable competent, and legal workforce for Monterey County's farms and ranches is essential and needs to be addressed through legislative reform that specifically includes an Agricultural Visa Program component that meets the needs of both agricultural employers and agricultural workers; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform must reduce the unreasonable wait times and arbitrary rules that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive immigration reform enforcement provisions must restore respect for law by promoting strict adherence to our nation's values including due process, civil and human rights, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas City Council supports a comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that keeps families together, upholds our values as a nation, promotes economic growth, and provides a long-term solution to the broken immigration system; and

WHEREAS, Our elected officials must create an immigration process that strengthens our nation's economy and lets aspiring citizens continue their contributions to our communities to our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALINAS. CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

 That this City Council urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses full legalization with a path to citizenship and future immigration of families and workers.

 That the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to John Boehner, U.S. Speaker of the House, Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Luis Alejo, California State Assembly Member, Anthony Cannella, California State Senator, and Governor Brown of the State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of April 2013, by the following votes:

AYES: Councilmembers: Barrera, Castaneda, Craig, Lutes, McShane and Mayor Gunter

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilmember De La Rosa

Attest:

Patricia Barajas, City Clerk

Joe Gunter, Mayor

Aublic Comment 4/9/13 Bill Rotz/Sent. Canneller Reg. CR4 Immigration Reform Reso.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2013

Contact:

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Sen. Cannella Issues Statement on Salinas City Council Immigration Reform Resolution

SACRAMENTO, **CA** – Senator Anthony Cannella (R-Ceres) today issued the following statement regarding the proposed resolution by the Salinas City Council regarding federal immigration reform:

For decades our immigration system has been broken, and it is our role as elected leaders to change the status quo when things are not working. We need to act immediately if we want to keep the problems stemming from immigration from growing. As the city council also recognizes in this resolution, I am encouraged by the work that we are finally seeing on the federal level. I support the actions that are being taken and want California to be at the forefront of immigration reform.

I want to applaud the City of Salinas for their leadership in bringing forth this resolution. For too long, our nation has ignored the 12 million undocumented immigrants that live in our communities.

We must recognize the hard work and contributions of our immigrant population and remember that we are all immigrants to this great country.

-30-

HOME PAGE | CONTACT ME | RELEASES | PUBLICATIONS