

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM20.61	ACTION			Ward:All
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National Conversation on Immigration: Request to Authorize a Submission from the Toronto Newcomer Advocates on behalf of Toronto City Council - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Joe Mihevc, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize Council's Newcomer Advocates to work with City staff to advise Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada of Toronto's interests as defined in the City's settlement policy framework and specific Council requests regarding regularization programs for undocumented Torontonians, to ensure adequate resources are available for successful settlement and the establishment of formal procedures to ensure the welfare of immigrant children.

Summary

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada initiated a national conversation on immigration on July 5, 2016. The federal government is "asking Canadians about what they think immigration means for Canada, and how we can continue to grow our nation through immigration". The consultation period ends August 5, 2016 so authority to participate in the conversation is being requested now.

Toronto City Council has an established settlement policy framework as set out in the City of Toronto Newcomer Strategy and the Integrating Cities Charter. This policy framework is based on the core belief that Immigration and Newcomers are an essential component of City Building and are fundamental to the identity of Toronto as a City. This core belief was most recently demonstrated when Toronto City Council endorsed the settlement of Syrian Refugees in Toronto by adopting the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Program.

In addition to this policy framework, Toronto City Council has also made specific requests to the Government of Canada regarding regularization programs for undocumented Torontonians, ensuring adequate resources are available to facilitate successful settlement and the establishment of formal procedures to ensure the welfare of immigrant children.

The submission to be developed by the Newcomer Advocates and City staff will advise Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada of Toronto's interests as defined in the City's settlement policy framework and the specific Council requests identified above.

This Motion is urgent as the consultation period ends August 5, 2016.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.61