

Donna Norris

From: Bryan & Dennee' Felber [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 10:24 PM
To: Mike Diaz
Subject: Immigration

Dear Mayor Salas and Councilmembers,

I know that you are in the midst of dealing with immigration related issues and watched the Council meeting on line. I wanted to share my thoughts, including some points that were not brought up by the speakers.

While I think I'm on board with the policy of not pursuing individuals discovered to be here illegally due to coming into contact with the police because of reporting crimes or needing their help. That seems reasonable to avoid people being afraid to report crimes or seek police help. However, if someone comes into contact with the police as a result of criminal activity, the police should report them to immigration.

However, I do not believe that we should ever adopt a sanctuary status, adopt a policy of non-cooperation with the Federal Government, or to take a stance supporting statewide efforts to do either of the same. I also do not believe that we should call ourselves a "welcoming city" unless we stipulate that we welcome legal immigrants. There are a number of reasons for these.

Some of the reasons that I don't believe that we should adopt a sanctuary status, adopt a policy of non-cooperation with the Federal Government, take stances supporting statewide efforts to do either of the same, or set ourselves as a universally "welcoming city" include:

- The obvious risk of loss of federal funds.
- The bad example it shows citizens that we flout federal law. We would not want our residents to pick and choose which of Chula Vista's or California's laws they obey. If Chula Vista picks and chooses which laws it will obey, it sets a bad example and justifies those residents who choose not to follow local laws.
- The perception that this is a safe place will attract and invite more criminal and non-criminal illegal aliens. Those criminals that come, thinking this is a safe haven, will obviously affect public safety.
- With an influx of people there are strains on services and housing. Many of the pro people sound like they would advocate open borders. The reason we have immigration limits is to have an orderly influx of immigrants that our society can handle. If we allow unplanned influxes of people that strain services and housing and other resources, how is that treating them with respect, dignity, and humanity? Undoubtedly, many will be homeless or may contribute to others being homeless or having greater difficulty in obtaining services.
- Adopting such policies thumbs the nose at and disrespects those that have acted properly and waited in line for their turn. One of my wife's dear friends comes from Mexico City. She came legally. Those who come illegally infuriate her. She came legally and went through the process and believes others should as well. She believes that it is completely unfair to those who waited in line and came legally, as well as those who are currently waiting in line. Why should some jump in line in front of her?

- Saying we are a welcoming city, without stipulating that it applies to legal immigrants sends the wrong message. We should not welcome law breakers (I am not referring to people with criminal intent, but those who come illegally, violating our laws). Not only does it attract more illegal entry, but it again, sends the wrong message. How can we expect people to follow other laws, when we obviously welcome those who break immigration laws? It is unjust to accept, even welcome the violation of some laws and not others. We lose the moral authority to enforce all laws when we do this.
- Jumping on the SB54 bandwagon does not solve the problem either. It just puts the entire state at risk for all of the above, and could still hurt Chula Vista.

I also disagree with stating a policy of our police not enforcing immigration law. By saying it so bluntly and directly, I think we're asking to be seen as a sanctuary city and non-cooperative with the Federal Government. It seems less blunt and threatening to say it more like, "While immigration is primarily a Federal Government responsibility, local public safety is the primary focus of the local police. As such, immigration issues are not the focus of local police." That said, I fully believe that if a person arrested for criminal activity is discovered to be here illegally, the police should report that person to the Feds and cooperate with them. We do not need or want criminals here.

Finally, I think the City should not take positions that advertise policies, stances, positions that could be construed as being a sanctuary city. I believe our reasons for not reporting illegal residents that come into contact with the police for non-criminal actions make sense from a public safety standpoint and do not clearly establish us as a sanctuary city. Becoming a squeaky wheel in sanctuary or welcoming positions will draw attention to us and could result in many of the adverse consequences noted above.

I believe the City of Chula Vista should maintain the status quo as well as actively and regularly lobby Congress to get immigration reform done now.

Sincerely,

Bryan Felber