

December 3, 2019

A MEMORIAL

RELATING TO ASYLUM-SEEKING FAMILIES; DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN; CALLING FOR ACTION TO SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF MIGRANT PROTECTION PROTOCOLS (MPP); AND URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL EFFORTS TO OFFER ADEQUATE CARE AND SUPPORT OF MIGRANT FAMILIES FLEEING PERSECUTION AND ABJECT POVERTY IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES AND SEEKING ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

YOUR MEMORIALIST RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, by and through this Memorial, desire to adopt and approve the official position of the City of Tucson with respect to the issues addressed in this Memorial; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2014 the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson unanimously approved a Memorial urging the Federal Government to provide appropriate care and shelter for children being processed under Federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, since that time through the efforts and donations of local non-profits and citizens, more than 35,000 migrant individuals have been assisted through our community in a compassionate and respectful manner; and

WHEREAS, local non-profits continue to have the willingness and capacity to provide compassionate care and support of migrants as they pass through our community in pursuit of asylum; and

WHEREAS, since the founding of this Country we as a people have extended open arms to the less fortunate as they flee deplorable conditions in which their lives are placed in danger; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has announced the imposition of Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) in the Tucson Sector, the effect of which is to divert asylum-seeking migrants apprehended in the Tucson Sector, by bus directly to El Paso, enrolled in MPP and sent into Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the conditions in Juárez are horrifying, getting worse and present an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of all migrants who are being sent there, with cartels immediately identifying men and boys as soon as they get off the bus and grabbing them as enlistees in their gang activity, committing violent crimes against women and girls, and placing the lives of all in severe jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, parents who have been waiting in Mexico for months to have their asylum claim adjudicated in the United States are now sending their children across the border alone with notes asking that somebody “please take care of my child;” and

WHEREAS, according to the Trump MPP, the only people not subject to being detained and sent into Juárez are women who are more than 6 months pregnant, disabled people, and women with children under 1 year of age; and

WHEREAS, there exists more than adequate space in local Tucson non-profit shelters to accommodate every one of the people now being diverted away from Tucson through the MPP; and

WHEREAS, local non-profits have been providing, and can continue to provide, medical attention, flu shots, food, shelter, travel support, and contact with next-of-kin, and soon can provide childhood immunizations; while in cartel-controlled Juárez the asylum-seekers will need to fight for survival; and

WHEREAS, the change in policy announced by the Trump administration has nothing to do with the ability and willingness of the residents and non-profits in the City of Tucson to care for migrant families coming through our City, and it has everything to do with a spiteful effort to remove one of the few remaining avenues of hope these individuals have;

NOW, THEREFORE, YOUR MEMORIALIST, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA, DECLARE AS FOLLOWS;

SECTION 1. That this Mayor and Council urges President Trump and the United States Congress to immediately end the Migrant Protection Protocols, and specifically to end them as they relate to the Tucson Sector of Border Patrol.

SECTION 2. That this Mayor and Council urges President Trump and the United States Congress to immediately direct leadership within Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to resume direct contact with non-profits in the City of Tucson who have been successfully addressing

the needs of migrant families, and to resume dropping migrant families at Tucson shelters, and not wasting taxpayer funds through the inhumane protocols inherent in MPP.

SECTION 3. That this Mayor and Council urges President Trump and the United States Congress to immediately release humanitarian aid funding that has already been provided for under Grant allocations approved by Congress, has been appropriately applied for by the City of Tucson and Pima County, but has not yet been provided.

SECTION 4. That City staff is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Memorial to President Trump, and to each member of Arizona's Congressional delegation.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, December 3, 2019.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ATTORNEY

REVIEWED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY MANAGER

MR/dg  
11/26/19