

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-_____

A Resolution expressing support for the federal administration’s new executive directive to keep immigrant and noncitizen families together, for local efforts to provide immigrant services, and for amending the City’s federal legislative agenda to include support for federal relief of immigrant legal services.

WHEREAS, the official motto of the City of Spokane is “In Spokane We All Belong,” and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane prioritizes and recognizes the value in keeping all families united; and

WHEREAS, the best outcomes for all families, and ultimately for the City of Spokane, arise when all members in our community, including noncitizens, are able to thrive and feel a sense of belonging that encourages them to participate in our civic and economic institutions; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2024, President Biden announced that the Department of Homeland Security will implement a new process that will help certain noncitizen spouses and children of U.S. citizens apply for lawful permanent residence – status that they are already eligible for – without leaving the country; and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible, noncitizens must have resided in the United States for 10 or more years and be legally married to a U.S. citizen, while satisfying all applicable legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, eligible persons will be afforded a three-year period to apply for permanent residency, during which they will be allowed to remain with their families in the United States and be eligible for work authorization; and

WHEREAS, this new federal program will promote family unity and strengthen the national and local economy, thereby providing a significant benefit to the City of Spokane and helping U.S. citizens and their noncitizen family members stay together; and

WHEREAS, this federal program remove the fear and uncertainty these families face when one spouse is a United States citizen and the other is undocumented, and thereby benefit many noncitizens and their families in Spokane’s increasingly diverse population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Spokane that it officially endorses the new policy articulated by the federal administration with respect to immigrant and noncitizen families; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council recognizes the contributions of its noncitizen residents, including its immigrants and new arrivals; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City Council adds federal relief for immigration legal assistance to its list of federal legislative priorities; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane commits to hosting town halls to understand and educate our community on issues relating to our immigrant population; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane will support the efforts of local organizations that work towards keeping noncitizen families together and achieving family unity; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Spokane will support the efforts of local organizations that provide legal assistance for immigrants towards legal permanent residency and, eventually, citizenship.

Passed by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2024.

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney