

September 14, 2017

City of Greensboro
Human Relations Commission

Members of City Council:

The purpose of this letter is to request the support of all local leaders in light of recent rescission of the executive order for the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA). After local community members appealed to the Human Relations Commission in a monthly meeting on September 7, 2017, the Commission voted and unanimously agreed to ask the Greensboro City Council, Congressional leaders, and other leaders in the education and business communities to support DACA recipients. The vote also included support for the DREAM Act *without any new contingencies that compromise the integrity of the original legislation or the executive order for DACA.*

Impact on Greater Greensboro

The status of DACA directly influences the lives of all residents in Greensboro, not just those who are DACA recipients. All populations who live in this city will feel the effects of a legislative decision that drastically impacts economic, workforce development, education, and cultural landscapes of Greensboro. While North Carolina is home to approximately 50,000 DACA recipients, many who live, work and contribute to the economic well-being of our City, a significant number live in our community. DACA recipients support all of our major industries and our city's tax revenue.

DACA, by design, allows undocumented youth and young adults to actively participate in Greensboro's city schools, colleges and universities, workforce at large, and meet milestones such as home acquisition without fear of deportation. Although this program does not provide a permanent path to citizenship, it allowed over 800,000 immigrants nationwide to come out of the shadows. On September 5, 2017, DACA was rescinded by President Donald Trump, which changed the sense of community, and belonging, making recipients call to question the very worth and purpose of continuing education, employment, dreams of establishing/maintaining homeownership, and even delaying plans for starting families.

Notable DACA recipients in our community include Andy Marchi, a City of Greensboro firefighter, Laura Garduño Garcia, a human resources professional and Irving Zavaleta, M.B.A., a business professional working in higher education. The unsung of our community include multiple high school valedictorians, registered nurses, contractors, etc.

A Charge to Congressional Delegation

In 2014, the City of Greensboro became a Welcoming City. Greensboro City Council's letter of support will lend credence to our "Welcoming City" proclamation. Failing to support DACA recipients compromises the message of hope contained in the tenets of the proclamation. We believe in the

leadership of Greensboro in all sectors, and all the more in that of our City Council. *Therefore, the Human Relations Commission respectfully requests that the Greensboro City Council send the following statement of support to members of Congress:*

The City of Greensboro supports legislation that will provide a permanent path to citizenship for immigrants who are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA.

The Greensboro City Council recognizes the importance of having DACA recipients as contributors to the social and economic fabric of the community, and therefore support their ability to live, work, enjoy Greensboro, while navigating a path to citizenship.

Greensboro recognizes both the notable and unsung DACA recipients who actively invest in our community's schools, colleges and universities, workforce, arts, and culture. Their skills, talents, and abilities are vital to the appeal of our community and we celebrate their efforts by standing with them in solidarity, in their pursuit of citizenship.

This request is in keeping with the actions of neighboring cities like Carrboro who earlier this week, passed a resolution that included financial support for DACA renewal. While each community will determine how best to take a stand, our hope is that our local leaders will fulfill the request above as a first step.

Support from the Education and Business Communities

The hope of the Human Relations Commission, home of the International Advisory Committee, is that the council will take actions similar to several leaders in other sectors of the community such as Dr. Sharon Contreras as head of Guilford County Schools, Chancellor Frank Gilliam, and Chancellor Harold Martin, who have already generated statements of support for DACA recipients.

Further, there is hope that the members of the business community to include the Chamber of Commerce and Merchant's Association will also consider the impact of the rescission of DACA on our local economy. We appreciate the actions of business leaders like Bob Page of Replacements Limited, who signed an open letter from leaders of American industry opposing the end of DACA.

We know the Greensboro City Council to be a body that recognizes the value of the city's residents—all residents. Please maintain the inclusive reputation that our city has rightfully earned, by taking a stance of support for DACA Recipients in Greensboro.

Sincerely,

Human Relations Commission
City of Greensboro