RESOLUTION NO. 2019-023

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL STRONGLY URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONSIDER THE BIPARTISAN COALITION OF BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS WHO JOINED TOGETHER TO FORM THE NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY (NAE) THAT HAS STUDIED AND PUBLISHED COMPREHENSIVE PAPERS ON THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, in 2010, roughly 1 in 10 American workers with jobs at private firms were employed at immigrant-founded companies; and

WHEREAS, for every 1,000 immigrants that arrive in a given U.S. county, 46 manufacturing jobs are preserved that would otherwise not exist or have moved elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, immigrant entrepreneurs have long been a critical part of Florida's economic success story. Several Fortune 500 firms in the state, including the transportation giant CSX, Office Depot, and Harris Corporation had a least one founder who either immigrated to the United States or was the child of an immigrant. Together, these firms employ more than 46,000 people and bring in almost $80 billion in annual revenue; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to almost 4 million immigrants. That means that one in five residents of Florida were born abroad and more than 168,700 manufacturing jobs were created; and

WHEREAS, foreign-born residents make up almost 3 out of every 5 employees in Florida's crop production industry, about 42.4 percent of the state's workers in travel accommodations contributing to Florida's sizable tourism industry, which provided jobs to more than 1.1 million Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, the roughly 38,000 international college students studying on temporary visas or 3.9 percent of all college students in the state generate an economic contribution in the state in that they provide support to more than 14,000 jobs in the state, including positions in transportation, health insurance, and retail; and

WHEREAS, The H-1B visa, which is used to sponsor high-skilled workers is currently capped at 85,000 visas a year for private sector employers; and

WHEREAS, the H-2B for seasonal or temporary needs is similarly limited to just 66,000 visas per year; and

WHEREAS, the H-2A for agricultural laborers requires the employer to demonstrate that it is unable to locate an American worker that is available, willing, and able to fill the job and accordingly do not take American jobs away from it citizens; and

WHEREAS, the NAE has documented and shown that attracting and retaining the world's top innovators and entrepreneurs and recruiting talented workers are needed, as well as in high- and low-skilled sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, bringing 11 million undocumented immigrants into the legal economy so that they can pay taxes, attain better education, and contribute more to the economic growth of the United States is proven; and

WHEREAS, developing a system to ensure that immigration laws are enforced and obeyed and that the immigration system is easy to understand, easy to navigate, and easy to implement; and

WHEREAS, this great nation is long overdue for a significant overhaul of its immigration laws to advance the economy; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform that will spearhead this nation in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship and in maximizing the productivity of the American workforce; and

WHEREAS, the NAE has asked the City to support the six principles known as the Florida Compact on Immigration it has ratified to hearten immigration reform as follows:

1. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY: Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. Government and other countries. Florida's delegation in Congress should work to enact federal immigration policy that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
2. STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY & WORKFORCE: As the gateway to the Americas and Caribbean for commerce, culture and investment, Florida needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting and retaining international talent. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. And it

should acknowledge the critical role immigrants play in Florida's economy as workers, taxpayers, and consumers. (As of 2016, immigrants contributed $7.5 billion in state and local taxes and held nearly $84 billion in spending power.)

3. A COMMONSENSE APPROACH: Immigrants are part of our communities across Florida. A commonsense approach to this reality would reflect our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies should provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture – in particular, Florida Dreamers and TPS holders.
4. EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT. A sensible and honorable law enforcement strategy would focus on public safety, target serious crime, and safeguard witnesses and victims. We need a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequences to businesses, the workforce, and consumers. A broader reform effort ultimately needs to include ways that accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work – and ensure an adequate workforce for a growing economy.
5. FAMILY: Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies should prioritize keeping close families together so as to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children.
6. COMPETITIVE COMMUNITIES: Communities that grow and attract talent are the ones who are welcoming to all. Local policies should nurture an environment that helps all residents to have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble to this Resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The City of Hialeah strongly urges the United States Congress to adopt the Florida Compact on Immigration and study the comprehensive papers published by the NAE on the positive contributions of immigrants in the United States.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority leaders in Congress, the Florida delegation in Congress, and such other persons as may be appropriate.

Section 4: This resolution shall become effective upon signature of the Mayor of the City of Hialeah, Florida or at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, if the Mayor's signature is withheld or if the City Council overrides the Mayor's veto.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26 day of February, 2019.

Vivian Casáls-Muñoz
Council President

Attest:

Marbelys Fatjo, City Clerk

Approved on this 5 day of March, 2019.

Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Lorena E. Bravo, City Attorney

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Resolution was adopted by a 7-0 vote with Councilmembers, Caragol, Zogby, Lozano, Casáls-Munoz, Hernandez, Garcia-Martinez and Cue-Fuente voting "Yes".