



work hard and pay taxes - to live in fear of being deported for simply going to work each day, and

WHEREAS, current immigration policies and practices often require families to wait lengthy periods- sometimes up to twenty years- to be reunited with their families or to obtain proper work and travel documentation, and

WHEREAS, despite broad public support for immigration reform that rewards work, the progress that immigrant organizations, labor unions, business groups, and religious leaders have made in building bipartisan political support for immigration reform has been stalled by the refocus of the federal government on terrorism, and

WHEREAS, essential protections for workers include concerns for health and safety hazards on the job, wage and hour violations, and rights to organize and improve working conditions, and

WHEREAS, we need immigration laws that respect dignity, reflect the realities of America's 21st century workforce, reward work, prevent exploitation, and keep families together;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

A. We call for immigration laws that allow all people appropriate paths to apply for legalization of immigration status and the opportunity to apply for citizenship;

B. We will continue to work together in coalitions with immigrant, labor, community, business, and religious groups to protect the rights of King County's immigrant families and individuals; and

C. We hereby endorse the aim of drawing attention to the importance of immigrant rights of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, leaving Seattle on September 23, 2003.