

# **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

*No.* 663

*Approved* September 26, 2003

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's population is comprised largely of immigrants from nations around the world and descendants thereof; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence was settled by Roger Williams, as he fled persecution, on the principles of independence, diversity, freedom, and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has, and will continue to have for the foreseeable future, a large immigrant population from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, Immigration is essential to the city's economic growth, its social and cultural diversity, and the vitality of its civic life; and

WHEREAS, The security of our city is best protected when no one is forced to live in fear because of his or her immigration status; and;

WHEREAS, The interests of the city are not served by the current immigration law which does the following:

(a) Offers no opportunity for many hard working, taxpaying immigrant residents to become legal residents, and eventually, citizens, of the United States.

(b) Imposes many hardships on immigrant families wishing to reunite in this state.

(c) Fails to protect the workplace rights of immigrants who are investing their labor in the state's economy.

(d) Fails to provide the legal protections and civil rights afforded to citizens; and

WHEREAS, A national mobilization of individuals and organizations that already support immigration reform, from the United States Chamber of Commerce to the NAACP and the AFL-CIO, from democratic and republican elected officials to the National Immigration Forum and National Council of La Raza, is necessary to restore the momentum for policy change that was swept aside by the tragic events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, which will set out from ten major cities in the United States and cross the country in buses in the fall of 2003, and culminate in delegations meeting Members of Congress in Washington, DC, and a mass show of support for immigrant workers in New York City, will be a powerful vehicle to demonstrate the existence of a broad national constituency for meaningful immigration reform.

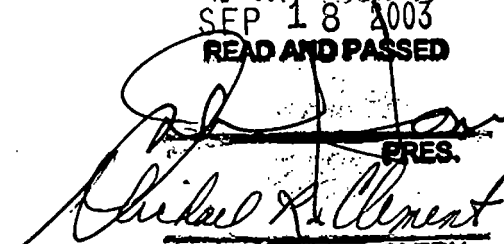
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Providence, the Assembly thereof concurring, that the Council hereby does all of the following:


- (a) Endorses the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) and its goals.
- (b) Supports and assists the organization of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in the City of Providence.
- (c) Calls on legislative bodies throughout the state to adopt similar resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
SEP 18 2003  
READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.  
CLERK

**APPROVED**

  
MAYOR 9/26/03

**Anna M. Stetson**  
**Second Deputy**

Taken By: AMS

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WHEREAS, The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, which will set out from ten major cities in the United States and cross the country in buses in the fall of 2003, and culminate in delegations meeting Members of Congress in Washington, DC, and a mass show of support for immigrant workers in New York City, will be a powerful vehicle to demonstrate the existence of a broad national constituency for meaningful immigration reform; now, therefore, be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Providence, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Council hereby does all of the following:

(a) Endorses the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) and its goals.

(b) Supports and assists the organization of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in the City of Providence.

(c) Calls on legislative bodies throughout the state to adopt similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the City Clerk transmit copies of this resolution to Rhode Island Congressional delegation.