

Neville, Richard D

From: Marley, John P
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 5:59 PM
To: Neville, Richard D
Subject: RE: RAC New Haven

Rick,

I am working with Walter on this issue, but I think we are already a flap behind the pace car. As you can see this movement has plenty of momentum and is apparently being spearheaded by my friends at Yale who are volunteering to defend the City of New Haven. If you read below you will see that Yale is loading up the Amistad with illegal aliens and sailing them to freedom, while John Marley openly weeps in Hartford....Film at eleven.

Associated Press

May 18 2007

NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- Like many immigrants, Miguel Cienfuentes lives in fear of being robbed. His brother was stabbed to death last fall.

"I don't walk the streets any more," Cienfuentes said Friday, speaking through an interpreter. "Where we live it's scary. We don't know when they are going to come after us thinking we have money."

City officials describe the immigrants as "walking ATMS," easy robbery targets because they typically cannot open bank accounts without identification and are often reluctant to report crimes.

New Haven hopes to become the first city in the nation to issue identification cards to undocumented immigrants. The \$10 cards would make it easier for immigrants to open bank accounts and encourage them to cooperate with police, proponents say.

"I think what it will do is create a safer, more civil community," said Mayor John DeStefano. "We're not making a political statement here."

Backers say the plan could serve as a model for dealing with the nation's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants.

But Ted Pechinski, an opponent of illegal immigration who is organizing a demonstration against the proposal next month, said ID cards would encourage more illegal immigration.

"I think it's awful," said Pechinski, who lives in North Branford. "It's going to attract many more illegals to New Haven. The overflow will go to the surrounding towns. Having this ID says you're welcome here. We will give you all the protection you need, even though you are illegal."

Michael Wishnie, a Yale law professor who has researched the proposal, said it is far fetched to think immigrants will travel thousands of miles across an international border to get a New Haven ID card that does not change their immigration status.

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"I think it's a very wise, practical policy and I think it's on sound legal footing," Wishnie said.

Cities have long issued cards for programs such as access to beaches, but officials say new Haven would be the first to issue an all-purpose municipal ID card for residents, including undocumented immigrants. The card also would have a debit component for residents to use for parking meters and city services.

A finance committee of the Board of Aldermen approved the plan Thursday night. The full board is expected to take up the proposal next month.

Hundreds of immigrants showed up at the meeting Thursday to support the proposal. They cited recent crimes against immigrants, including a robbery in which a caretaker and her 7-year-old son were left bound in a home for three days.

Other cities such as New York are considering issuing ID cards, officials said. Advocacy groups in San Francisco and Chicago have inquired about New Haven's plan.

New Haven, with a population of about 125,000, has about 15,000 illegal immigrants, city officials said.

Unlike other Connecticut cities such as Danbury that have cracked down on illegal immigration, New Haven has taken a welcoming approach. Under an order issued in December, police do not ask about a person's immigration status when talking with residents and making arrests.

For Cienfuentes, who moved to Connecticut from Mexico, the card would provide some welcome security.

"It's a good idea," he said. "It's going to be a valued ID in New Haven. It's very helpful to us."

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Municipal ID cards likely
Mary E. O'Leary, Register Topics Editor
05/18/2007

NEW HAVEN - The New Haven Board of Aldermen Thursday took the first step toward New Haven becoming the first city in the country to issue a municipal identification card that would be available to all within its borders, including undocumented immigrants.

After listening to overwhelming support in favor of such a card, the finance committee of the board unanimously approved it as long as the estimated cost of \$237,000 continues to be supported with outside funds.

Proponents at the public hearing attended by about 300 people, many of them immigrants, said the card would help integrate residents now living in the shadows and get them to participate in civic life.

"It is smart, legal and visionary," Liam Brennan, a Yale Law School student, who helped research the issue, told the board.

Brennan, as well as several clergy and people who work with immigrants, emphasized the identification card as a way for them to eventually open bank accounts and keep their money safe instead of being

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easy targets of robberies.

"When you reduce crime, it benefits everyone," Brennan said.

Beyond that, the card was seen as an example for the rest of the country to follow to start to deal with the 12 million illegal immigrants in America, some 70,000 of whom are estimated to be living in Connecticut.

"This could be a step for New Haven to lead our country into the future," Brennan said.

Mayor John DeStefano Jr., who has only testified four times before the board in his 14 years as mayor, spoke in favor of the proposal, which he has long supported.

"This is an issue of justice and an issue of human rights, just as was the case when generations ago the community of New Haven engaged the captives of the Amistad. If New Haven won't stand up, who will stand up," DeStefano said.

Slaves captured on the Amistad ship were freed by the courts in Connecticut in the 19th century.

The card would be available to all residents and include such features as a library card, while a debit component would allow people to pay parking meters and buy goods at some 50 stores in the city. It would allow access to Lighthouse Point Park and other municipal services.

Illegal immigrants could prove residency with rent receipts and utility bills and identification with a birth certificate or consular card, similar to documents required by banks.

The cost would be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. In addition to immigrants, it was pitched as a good source of identification for senior citizens, college students and children.

The Rev. James Manship, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church, led about 100 immigrant parishioners in a march to City Hall from Fair Haven to speak on behalf of the card. He had several examples of church members who have been robbed and spoke of the murder of Manuel Santiago from Mexico last October, who was killed in a robbery.

"He was robbed because somebody thought they could get away with it, an easy mark, an undocumented immigrant, he will never talk. When people are made to be invisible, it becomes easier to deny their dignity ... when that happens our whole community loses out," Manship said.

Aldermen questioned the cost of the project and whether the city would be targeted by the federal government.

But Michael Wishie, a professor of law at Yale and an immigration expert, said while there were no guarantees, it was "highly unlikely" since the priorities of the Department of Homeland Security are counterterrorism and not rounding up people who lack legal status.

Wishie said if any legal challenges are posed to the cards, the law clinic at the Yale Law School would represent the city free of charge.

The most moving testimony came from Marieah Viviel of New Haven, who urged approval of the card based on personal experience. She said her mother's immigrant caretaker and the caretaker's seven-year-

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old son were bound and left in their home for three days in a robbery until she sought them out.

"After that night I never saw them again," she said as she broke into tears.

The handful of residents who opposed the cards questioned the legality, the cost and the real need.

"It is a solution looking for a problem," said Gary Doyens.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Neville, Richard D
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2007 10:44 AM
To: Gleason, Paul E
Cc: Wilkowski, Walter; Marley, John P
Subject: RE: RAC New Haven

Paul,

I appreciate the heads-up. I'm forwarding this to John Marley in our Hartford sub-office. Please include him in any future emails on the subject.

Thanks,
Rick

From: Gleason, Paul E
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 10:58 AM
To: Neville, Richard D
Cc: Wilkowski, Walter
Subject: FW: RAC New Haven

Rick,

Wanted to give you a heads-up. I just got off a conference call with Walt Wilkowski, Peter Jongbloed and Krishna Patel regarding headaches in New Haven. ~~Walt is putting together a brief letter outlining some of the concerns with a "city identification card" and plans to forward it to OPLA and OCC Boston for our review.~~

It was great seeing you in Boston, it is a terrific city.
Have a good weekend.
Paul

From: Wilkowski, Walter
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 9:56 AM
To: Gleason, Paul E
Subject: FW: RAC New Haven

Paul, here it the email. The participants will be: myself, Krishna Patel, AUSA; Peter Jongbloed, AUSA (Chief Criminal).

-----Original Message-----

From: Sibley, Kevin D
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2007 11:02 AM
To: Wilkowski, Walter
Subject: FW: RAC New Haven

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FYI – The response from OPLA.

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(b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(D)
Kevin Sibley
Acting Unit Chief
Worksite Enforcement Unit
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
(202) 514-0789 Desk
) Cell

From: Gleason, Paul E
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2007 10:49 AM
To: Sibley, Kevin D
Subject: RE: RAC New Haven

(b)(5)
ACP

From: Sibley, Kevin D
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2007 2:57 PM
To: Gleason, Paul E
Subject: RAC New Haven

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(b)(5)

ACP

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