



A Century of Progress with Pride

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2018

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CITY OF BERWYN INTRODUCES WELCOMING CITY ORDINANCE

Ensure Trust and Good Relationships between Berwyn's Immigrant Communities, Regardless of Immigration Status

BERWYN – Last Fall, Mayor Lovero brought forth an important diversity resolution that spoke directly to our residents declaring that “the City of Berwyn will continue its tradition of welcoming people from all backgrounds and continue to provide an environment of stability, safety and diversity for all of its residents.”

Expanding on this diversity resolution, Aldermen Cesar Santoy and Rafael Avila have been collaborating with community immigration organizations (Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), West Suburban Action Project (PASO), Interfaith Leadership Project, Berwyn Immigration Working Group, and Ixchel Committee) to create a Welcoming City Ordinance that clarifies communications and enforcement relations between the City and federal government.

The City of Berwyn has its roots in immigration, and this Welcoming City Ordinance states that the City of Berwyn will continue to welcome all who contribute in a positive manner to our City regardless of nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

The proposed ordinance will prohibit all city employees, including police officers, unless otherwise directed by a court of law, from questioning an individual's immigration status threatening deportation. The amendment also defines coercion and verbal abuse to include verbal threats and to bar city employees from compelling a person to make statements.

All are invited to the Committee of the Whole Meeting, City of Berwyn City Hall, 6700 W 26th Street, Berwyn, at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 to hear a presentation regarding the contents of the proposed Welcoming City Ordinance. The proposed Welcoming City Ordinance will be presented to City Council to be voted upon at 8 pm that evening.

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