



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

20161121-004B : Regarding "Vision Zero Action Plan "

WHEREAS, The City of Austin became a Welcoming City in September 2013

WHEREAS, Mayor Adler reaffirmed his commitment to this, stating on November 13, 2016, "everyone living in Austin deserves to be safe and to feel welcome."

WHEREAS, The City of Austin adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan on May 19, 2016

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Action Plan states that any action under the plan must "design assurances against racial profiling and targeting of enforcement of top contributing factors toward vulnerable user groups"

WHEREAS, vulnerable populations are being moved to the periphery and transportation is necessary for work, as public transportation is not available and a personal vehicle is necessary

WHEREAS, the Austin Police Department is proposing to City Council a policy to impound vehicles of persons who have no driver's licenses and have two prior convictions; have no driver's license and are involved in any crash

WHEREAS, undocumented residents of Austin are more likely not to be licensed drivers, since current law does not allow them to be licensed, and will therefore be disproportionately targeted by any policy directed at unlicensed drivers

WHEREAS, undocumented residents involved in any of these situations will face costs that present financial hardship to working families, such as the cost of the fine, the cost of release of the vehicle, and surcharges to their auto insurance

WHEREAS, the fear of undocumented residents of losing a vehicle may make them less likely to report automobile accidents when they are not at fault, including accidents when they are victims of hit and run, which runs contrary to public safety concerns and to Austin's role as a Welcoming City

WHEREAS, according to Section 2-1-125 of the City Code, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs exists to advise the city council on issues of common concern to immigrants.

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, that the City Council not adopt the Austin Police Department's recommended policy to impound vehicles as part of the Vision Zero Plan

RECOMMENDED, that vehicles not be impounded in cases where the only offense relates to no driver's license, and that such cases be handled solely by citation

RECOMMENDED, that vehicles not be impounded in cases where the only criteria are that there are multiple convictions for no driver's license, and that such cases be handled solely by citation

RECOMMENDED, that vehicles not be impounded in cases where the person has no driver's license and is involved in a crash

PASSED by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on November 21, 2016.

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on a 9-0 vote with Commissioners Rosalia Austin and David Vandenberg absent.

Attest:

Connie H. Gonzales

Staff Liaison