

2(d)
10-13-07

Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet (10/13/07, Public Discussion)

Good morning. I'm sorry that you even addressed the issue of immigration related to what you think should be said. Diversity and immigration and illegal people in this country are two very, very different things. Nobody looks at someone – well, some people do, but let's just say people don't just look at someone because they are from another country or a different nationality and label them as illegal. There is a big difference between diversity and being in this country illegal. And that's what you did not do in this resolution. You brought community and diversity at the front and you never mentioned what the Constitution and what the laws of our country say – you guys took an oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of this country. That is what should have been first. Then you should have iterated what you will be doing and what you will not be doing. Instead you put it on a totally different table than where it needs to be. The comments I have heard from people one Alexandria is now a sanctuary city and the other from a news broadcast because of what was covered is that it doesn't matter whether anyone has papers, everybody is welcome in Alexandria whether they are legal or illegal. That's not good either. I don't think this was handled very well and this is not the kind of a thing you decide to make a resolution and then hear from the public sometime later with some put together little piece of forum where you bring in who you think we need to hear. There is nothing wrong with making resolutions, and a lot of them I think are very good, but a lot of them I think you are treading where you don't need to tread, and I think you are making statements that a lot of people do not agree with and you are not making the best statements you could make. This is a very sloppy resolution. It doesn't really say what you're trying to say. You have the legality somewhere stuck in the middle with a couple of sentences. That's not the way to do this. And somehow you have got to get back instead of being (inaudible) being spread all over everyone, to having some foundation of what this country is about. People who came here before this city was founded, people who came through the immigration process properly. I'll leave it there. We'll talk later. Thank you.