



work and in their communities simply for what they believe or where they come from; and

Whereas, Current immigration policies and practices often require families to wait long periods - sometimes up to twenty years - to be reunited with their families or to obtain proper work and travel documentation; and

Whereas, Despite broad public support for immigration reform that rewards work, the progress that immigrant organizations, labor unions, business groups and religious leaders have made in building bipartisan political support for immigration reform has been stalled; and

Whereas, Essential protections for workers include concerns for health and safety hazards on the job, wage and hour violations and rights to organize and improve working conditions; and

Whereas, We need immigration laws that respect dignity, reflect the realities of America's 21st century workforce, reward work, prevent exploitation and keep families together; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls for immigration reform that that provides fair opportunities for persons to apply for legalization of immigration status and citizenship; reiterates its commitment to working together in coalitions with immigrant, labor, community, business and religious groups to protect the rights of New York's immigrant families; and endorses the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, which will arrive in New York on October 4, 2003 at Flushing Meadow Park in the great borough of Queens and is designed to draw attention to the importance of immigrant rights.

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