



Sanctuary City



Access without fear to municipal services for Undocumented Individuals

Community Consultation February 23rd, 2017



Agenda

- Welcome and Council's resolution
- Jurisdictional Context
- What is a "Sanctuary City"
- What is an "Undocumented Individual"
- What are other cities doing?
- What are the opportunities and what could the City of London do?
- Consultation
- Next Steps and wrap up



Council resolution a)

- February 1, 2017 resolved:

That the following actions be taken in response to the President of the United States of America's executive order to ban individuals and families from Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia from entering the United States of America:

a) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to consult with the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Advisory Committee (DIAAC) and the community stakeholders who are working on the Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and report back at a future meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee with the appropriate arrangements for the City of London to become a Sanctuary City where residents can expect access to service without fear;



Council resolution b)

b) the Mayor BE REQUESTED and the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to communicate to the Federal Government, including the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship, that the City of London continues to be committed to receiving refugees from Syria, Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia who have been banned from entry to the United States of America as per the President's recent Executive Order;



Jurisdictional Context

- Canada is a federal state, with the federal government possessing exclusive constitutional jurisdiction over immigration policies and regulations.
- Municipalities do not have the legal authority to grant permanent resident status nor offer "sanctuary"



What is a "Sanctuary City"

Working definitions are :

Canadian Model	American Model
"City is where all residents have full rights to access all city services and city-administered services without fear, regardless of their documentation"	"City that does not allow municipal funds or resources to be used to enforce federal immigration laws"



What is an “Undocumented Individual”

- “Undocumented Individuals” without status refers to a person who has not been granted permission to stay in the country, or who has overstayed their visa.
- The majority come into Canada through authorized programs but for various reasons, their status lapses.
- This includes refugee claimants awaiting a decision, failed refugee claimants still in the country or workers and students whose visas have expired.



How many are there?

- Although there are no official statistics, politicians and the media tend to claim there are between **200,000-500,000** non-status migrants in Canada (Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver).
- In 2003, Ontario’s Construction Secretariat estimated there were 76,000 non-status migrants in Ontario’s construction industry alone.
- In a recent study on emergency room consultations suggests that there are at least 58,000 non-status migrants in Ontario.



Other Canadian city models

- Toronto: *Toronto for All; United as a Sanctuary City*, Jan . 2017
 - Policies: improve access without fear for individuals requesting services at City and City-funded agencies;
 - Training of front-line staff and managers
 - Complaints system
 - Discussions with police on *don’t ask* policy.
- Hamilton: *Access to services for undocumented individuals* (2014)
 - Public Education
 - Training of front-line staff
 - Federal and provincial advocacy



Other Canadian city models

- Vancouver: *Access to City Services without Fear* 2016
 - Policy applies to City-funded excluding police, parks and library services
 - However City encourages City-funded services to adopt access policies which support the “spirit and objectives” of this policy
 - Guidelines for City staff, staff training
 - Complaint mechanism
 - Public awareness
 - Advocacy



Newest Addition: Montreal

February 20th 2017; the City of Montreal declared itself a “Sanctuary City” for unauthorized immigrants

- Commitment to offer access to city programs and services, particularly municipal housing, without fear of being detained or deported
- A plan for undocumented people in “vulnerable situations” to receive assistance from Montreal police without being reported to immigration officials
- A call on the Quebec gov’t, provincial immigration, to ensure access to health care, emergency services and lodging
- A call on the federal gov’t to regularize the status of undocumented migrants



Opportunities

Individual Level	Municipal Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals could access appropriate services without fear of being arrested or reported to the CBSA (Canadian Border Security Agency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify services available for all, regardless of immigration status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces isolation, promotes engagement in community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the importance of giving access to those in need, especially those who are vulnerable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with 2015-’19 City of London Strategic Plan



What could the City of London do?

- Offer full access to municipal services
- Encourage city-funded agencies to improve access without fear
- Staff training
- Develop public education
- Advocate with provincial and federal governments to improve access to provincial and federal programs



How is this different from what already happens?

- Numerous city services are already available to undocumented individuals and staff don't usually ask about immigration status unless mandated to do so
- e.g. recreation, Service London, emergency shelters, crash beds, outreach services, drop-ins, needle-exchange programs, 211



Consultation question

Are there any other services that should be offered that are not currently offered to undocumented individuals? If so, what would they be?



Next Steps

- Report to committee and council with work plan
- Any questions?



Thank you!

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