

Prince William County Officials Approve Immigration Bill

Bill Requires State Officials To Check Immigration Status

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PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, Va. -- The Prince William County board voted Tuesday on whether to adopt tougher measures that would target illegal immigrants.

The proposed measure requires that immigration status be checked before someone could use public services such as schools, libraries and swimming pools. The bill also requires police to check the residency status of anyone suspected of breaking the law. The measure would also force county police to ask about immigration during routine traffic stops.

Authorities said the names of undocumented residents that are gathered would be submitted to immigration officials for possible deportation.

Video: [Watch The Report](#)

In an 8-0 vote, Prince William County officials voted to approve the measure. Testimony during a hearing just before the vote wrapped up after about three hours, News4's Julie Carey reported.

Wearing red stickers that read, "Help Save Manassas," supporters of the bill argued that illegal immigrants are ruining their way of life.

"These border crashers have contributed to rising crime rates, increasing burdens on our schools, hospitals and public services, and the very destruction of our American culture," said proposal supporter Greg Letieco.

Opponents of the proposal have argued that the bill would promote profiling by authorities based on race and ethnicity.

"The motion is misguided in that it directs political frustration and denaturant leadership and focuses on the vulnerable -- women and children. It is harsh and hurtful for those who are unable to speak for themselves in a public forum without fear," said proposal opponent Rev. Bob Menard.

John Stirrup, a member of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, said he authored the immigration resolution because about 20 percent of the county's population is foreign born.

A majority of board members have said they support the resolution but agreed that changes could still be made to the bill such as denying medical services to illegal immigrants.

Officials said the measure may face some legal obstacles in terms of schools checking residency status because courts have upheld the right of undocumented immigrants to a public education.

Officials said the measure could fuel a nationwide debate over illegal immigration.

Previous Stories:

- July 6, 2007: [Prince William County Board Nears Vote On Immigration Bill](#)
- June 27, 2007: [Proposed Immigration Policy Creates Stir In Prince William Co.](#)
- May 18, 2007: [Area Residents React To Immigration Compromise](#)

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MANASSAS, Va. (AP) -- Lawmakers on Tuesday unanimously approved a measure aimed at discouraging illegal immigrants from settling in Virginia's Prince William County.

Hundreds of people packed a meeting before the eight-member Board of Supervisors voted on the proposal. It requires county police to check on the immigration status of anyone they detain if there is probable cause to believe the person is undocumented.

It would also permit other county workers to ensure that people are in the country legally before providing services.

After the vote, opponents of the measure rallied outside, promising to fight it.

It is the latest in a slew of efforts across the United States to crack down on illegal immigrants at the local level, and is among the most severe proposals. Although the resolution was carefully worded, immigrant rights advocates said they feared the intent was to deny a wide range of services, including medical care, library access and even the federally protected right to schooling. They say such restrictions will inevitably lead to discrimination based on race and ethnicity.

The county's police chief also spoke out strongly against the measure, saying it would diminish cooperation with law enforcement and further strain thinly stretched resources. Chief Charlie T. Deane said restricting access to recreation services would lead to increased crime among young people.

The proposal reflects concerns about the presence of undocumented immigrants in Prince William County, an area about 25 miles southwest of Washington, DC, that has seen massive change in recent decades. The population increased from 281,000 in 2000 to 347,000 in 2005, according to census figures. The Hispanic population jumped from 9.7% of the total to 18% in that period.

"When we moved to this area, it was just a regular American community," said Greg Letiecq, the leader of the group Help Save Manassas, which has lobbied strongly in support of the measure. "Six years later it's transformed into something different. It doesn't resemble the American dream that I bought or that I wanted to raise my children in."

The preamble of the resolution, introduced by Supervisor John T. Stirrup, a Republican, blames illegal immigration for "economic hardship and lawlessness in Prince William County."

"Illegal immigration may be encouraged by public agencies within the county by failing to verify immigration status as a condition of providing services," it reads.

Tuesday's meeting was packed far beyond the typical local government meeting. More than 100 people addressed the board on the immigration proposal, and the county ran a shuttle bus to transport people from an overflow parking lot. Most people couldn't fit in the board room and packed into the lobby to watch the proceedings on video screens.

The fire marshal eventually had to close the doors to the building, and more people gathered outside.

"I am here because it's against justice," said Maria Hernandez, a U.S. citizen and former illegal immigrant from El Salvador, who stood outside the administration building with her year-old son and 3-year-old daughter hanging on her. "How is it possible that our children won't have an education because they are illegal?"

The text of the resolution doesn't spell out which services could be refused, but says emergency medical care and other services cannot be denied under federal or state laws. It calls on county staff to study which services could be denied and how that would be implemented.

Teresita Jacinto, of the Woodbridge Workers Committee, which works with day laborers in the county, helped organize the large contingent of Latinos who showed up at the meeting. She said the proposal has compounded a growing apprehension in the Hispanic community.

"Families are really afraid. They're not even reporting crimes to the police anymore," Jacinto said.

Omar Jadwat, staff attorney at the Immigrants' Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the Prince William initiative is part of a recent wave of local efforts from Hazelton, Pa., to San Bernadino, Calif., aimed at illegal immigration. The ACLU and other organizations have challenged a number of ordinances, and Jadwat said none of the challenged ordinances is currently being enforced, though some are still in court.

Kent Willis, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia, said he believed the local efforts would continue until there is some kind of movement in Washington on immigration issues.

"You're seeing frustration at the local level that stems from lack of action at the federal level," he said.

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Supervisors approve immigrant resolution

By KEITH WALKER

kwalker@manassasjm.com

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

The Prince William Board of County Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution meant to crack down on illegal immigration, while about 400 people watched Tuesday afternoon.

More than 100 people spoke at the meeting at the McCoart Administration Center. Prince William Chairman Corey A. Stewart drew the ire of the crowd when he limited each speaker's time to one minute rather than allowing the customary three minutes per speaker.

The split, among people who spoke, was about even between those opposed to the resolution and those in favor of it.

Jeff Williams of Manassas favored the resolution and said he thought most people in the county did as well.

"With the introduction of Supervisor Stirrup's resolution concerning policies for illegals in Prince William County, a Collosus giant of 370,000 legal citizens of this jurisdiction are alive and in a single voice are saying to you 'Yes. Yes. Support this resolution. Yes. Do something for the

citizens who elected you,' " Williams said.

Nicole Armbruster called the resolution "racist in nature" and said that it would be "xenophobic in practice."

Ronald Boykin, pastor of the Manassas A.M.E. Church, said the supervisors should take more time over the resolution.

"The community has not had an opportunity to voice all of its concerns," he said.

"I think the humanistic approach to this is that we would allow the board to bring together pieces of this community to dialogue and look at really needs to happen so that a proper resolution can be presented and passed."

The resolution that John T. Stirrup, R-Gainesville, brought to the board Tuesday was changed from the resolution he initially proposed two weeks ago.

Stirrup's original resolution would have changed county code to require police officers to determine the immigration status of everyone they stopped regardless of "national origin, ethnicity or race."

But the county attorney said that any resolution that changed the county code would have to go through a period of public hearing.

The amended resolution simply issued a directive to require police to ask about immigration status, if they had probable cause to do so.

The resolution also directed the police department to enter into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement to train officers who would enforce immigration laws under ICE supervision.

Prince William police Chief Charlie T. Deane told the supervisors that the resolution would have "significant, unintended consequence which will impact our county for years to come."

Some of the consequences could include higher taxes, higher crime rates among an immigrant community unwilling to report crime and emerging vigilantism.

Other unintended consequences could include "displaced and angry minorities," and "disenfranchised youth who will move to gangs for solace and protection," Deane said.

"I predict that you'll have to raise taxes to cover the sky-rocketing expenses of responding to calls for services that will flood the police department," Deane said.

Dean also told the supervisors that the resolution would shine unfavorably on Prince William County.

"If we don't get this right, perceptions of racism will increase," Deane said.

"Despite any cries of fairness and impartiality, Prince William County ... will be painted ... as a racist community intent on driving out a single population," Dean said of the Hispanic population which he said makes up 18 percent of the county.

Col. Skip Land, the superintendent of the Prince William-Manassas Regional jail, told the supervisors that ICE has said that it will accept into its system only 40 illegal immigrants a month.

Furthermore, Land said, ICE will only take those illegal immigrants who have been "convicted of a crime" or are the "worst of the worst."

The jail is overcrowded, but Land said he would not use that as a "cop out" to turn prisoners away.

Land also told the supervisors that not everyone who winds up with ICE paperwork is going to be deported.

Stirrup said he "would not accept ICE's position that they cannot process more individuals."

"I, in no way, accept that as an answer," Stirrup said.

The board will hold a work session in 90 days to decide what benefits the county can and cannot deny illegal immigrants.

About 150 people demonstrated in front of the building, vowing to fight the resolution after the board's vote.

John Steinbach of the Woodbridge Workers Committee was among the demonstrators and said he was disappointed at the board's decision.

"The line has kind of been drawn," Steinbach said.

"Immigration has now become a local issue," he said.

Steinbach said he thought the resolution wouldn't hold up to scrutiny

"It's probably not going to pass legal muster." Steinbach said. "It's a can of worms."

Stirrup said the resolution is a warning shot.

"For folks that are here illegally, I think it sends a message that they need to get legal," he said

Why not enforce our laws?

Greg Letiecq

Potomac News

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

How long are we to quietly suffer the effects of the large number of illegal aliens present in our communities?

How much tolerance are American citizens required to exhibit towards residential overcrowding, street gangs, violent crime, identity theft and the transformation of our community into something that resembles the third world -- all problems that are related to the tens of thousands of illegal aliens we have in our midst -- before we have adequately proven our multi-cultural credentials?

What price are we required to pay to manage the burdens on our public safety agencies, our schools, our hospitals and other taxpayer funded or supported services to demonstrate that we are adequately compassionate to the plight of those who willfully break our laws and then demand that we open our wallets to subsidize their unlawful behavior?

If we fail to shield illegal aliens from the consequences of their unlawful behavior, are we less American, or perhaps even less Christian? Or are we just reasonable?

Gainesville Supervisor John Stirrup has heard the hundreds, if not thousands of citizens who contend that we have been patient enough, generous enough and tolerant enough only to be rewarded for our patience, generosity and tolerance with an ever-accelerating dismantlement of the communities we live in.

The flood of illegal aliens continues unabated, encouraged by local policies which have the effect of perpetuating their unlawful presence in our communities and encouraging more illegal aliens to come.

John Stirrup understands that in order to begin dealing with this outrage, we must alter the conditions that make Prince William County a comfortable and inviting place for illegal aliens to reside.

His novel plan, which has the illegal alien lobby up in arms, is to simply ensure that Prince William County is in strict compliance with state and federal laws.

In cases where public benefits are restricted by law only to citizens and legal residents, we will actually ask applicants whether they're illegal aliens or not.

Police officers will inquire about the legal status of all detainees as is allowed under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

Under this proposal, the county will participate in the Section 287(g) Program under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 2005, as the regional jail currently does, a proposal that even the Chief of the Prince William County Police Department supports.

Does the proposal take away benefits from anyone who is entitled to them currently?

Not at all.

Does it dictate that the police department start performing immigration enforcement raids in minority communities?

Not a chance.

Does it dictate policies that would put the county on a collision course with the Supreme Court's 1982 Plyer v. Doe decision which awards illegal alien minors with the privilege of a taxpayer-funded education in our public school system regardless of the resources that might otherwise be dedicated to educating the children of legal residents and citizens?

Sadly, no.

We will continue to burden our teachers with maintaining control over increasingly dangerous and disruptive students instead of teaching our children because it is seemingly preferable to having them outside of the classroom where parents would otherwise be responsible for controlling their behavior.

Our system of taxpayer-funded daycare for illegal aliens at the expense of our own children's education is not threatened by Supervisor Stirrup's proposal.

So what is the illegal alien lobby so fearful of? Perhaps that we might actually enforce the laws that we have in this country, or take seriously such radical ideas as this:

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

This is from The Holy Bible, New International Version, Romans 13:1-3

What strange times we live in when it's necessary to debate the wisdom or rectitude of the idea of complying with existing law.

Our patience is not infinite, our generosity is not limitless, and our tolerance for rampant lawbreaking is at an end.

Supervisor Stirrup's initiative is an eminently reasonable means of beginning to address the problem of illegal aliens, of which the only remarkable discussion should be why we haven't done this years ago.

Greg Letiecq is the president of Help Save Manassas.

Article published Jul 11, 2007

Prince William to check immigration status

July 11, 2007

By Natasha Altamirano - Prince William County officials voted unanimously last night to move forward with one of the toughest immigration policies in the country.

The eight-member Board of County Supervisors passed a resolution that requires police officers to ask about immigration status in all arrests if there is probable cause to believe that a suspect has violated federal immigration law. The resolution also requires county staff to verify a person's legal status before providing certain public services.

Board Chairman Corey A. Stewart, at-large Republican, commended his colleagues for "stepping up to the plate" and taking action on immigration enforcement when the federal government has failed to do so.

"We're going to do what we can," he said prior to the vote, which came after nearly four hours of impassioned testimony from people for and against the tough policies. "We know this is a federal issue, but I think the citizens have a right to expect that their local government and the state government are going to do whatever they can to address the problem."

The resolution, introduced last month by Supervisor John T. Stirrup Jr., Gainesville Republican, was amended before the meeting yesterday to clarify the circumstances under which county staff — including police — should ask about immigration status.

The resolution calls for the police department to establish standards of probable cause and methods by which officers can determine lawful presence, then report back to the board within 60 days.

"It gives us time to figure out some more of the details," county Police Chief Charlie T. Deane said.

The original resolution required officers to ask about immigration status in all arrests, "regardless of the person's national origin, ethnicity or race."

The resolution also was amended to allow the board to clarify which public services the county can deny illegal aliens. The resolution asks County Executive Craig S. Gerhart to schedule a work session with the board within 90 days to help identify three categories of public services: those mandated by federal or state law, regardless of immigration status; those prohibited by federal or state law to illegal aliens; and those for which the county might have the discretion to deny illegal aliens.

The resolution is not designed to deny "emergency medical care or any other public benefits mandated by federal or state law."

Language also was added to the resolution to recognize the benefit of legal immigration, "one of the very bedrock principles upon which our thriving society is built."

Mr. Stirrup said he was "disturbed" by comments from some of the 115 people who spoke during the public comment period, characterizing the resolution as "anti-immigration."

"In no way, shape or form is that what this is designed for," he said. "This is about the rule of law. Unfortunately, that seems to have been lost in some of the press reports over the past few weeks. I have emphasized that. It's what our American civilization is all about. We're doing this directly in response to our community which has called repeatedly — repeatedly — for us to do something."

Mr. Stirrup said he introduced the resolution in response to accusations that the county employs so-called "sanctuary policies" protecting illegal aliens — something county officials vehemently deny.

"Prince William County is not now, nor has it ever been, a 'sanctuary' for illegal immigration," Chief Deane said in his address to the board.

He did caution supervisors against acting too rashly and warned of unintended consequences, including an end to community policing, perceptions of racism and racial profiling, increased crime among youth and higher taxes to fund the greater administrative costs.

"We must strike a balance in our policy," Chief Deane said. "It must be the right balance or we will polarize the community and create more problems than we solve."

The county population increased from roughly 281,000 in 2000 to 347,000 in 2005, census figures show. And the Hispanic population nearly doubled during that period, from roughly 9.7 percent to roughly 18 percent.

Board chambers were filled to capacity, and hundreds more sat in overflow seats in the lobby, watching the meeting on large-screen televisions.

The crowd grew impassioned at times, despite repeated warnings from Mr. Stewart to refrain from cheering, jeering, applause or other outbursts.

John Garcia of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund said he stood outside with "hundreds and hundreds of Latinos" who joined in during the invocation and recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the meeting.

"Those are the people you're targeting," said Mr. Garcia, who opposed the resolution.

Other speakers include members of faith-based groups and members of Help Save Manassas, whose mission is to reduce the influx of illegal aliens in Prince William

County.

Group President Greg Letiecq encouraged supervisors to pass the resolution.

"No more — no more tolerance for criminal illegal aliens who commit assault and battery, stalking, indecent exposure, driving while intoxicated or hit-and-run because these crimes aren't supposedly serious enough to warrant even notifying the immigration authorities," he said. "No more protection for illegal aliens who attempt to obtain taxpayer-funded services, which they are not entitled to receive in order to make their continued unlawful presence in the county more comfortable. No more selective enforcement of our laws in order to make it easier for vast numbers of illegal aliens to maintain in our midst."

Other speakers denounced the resolution as "racist" and "xenophobic" and urged supervisors to reconsider.

Pr. William Passes Resolution Targeting Illegal Immigration

Stricter Aspects of Original Plan Are Softened

By Nick Miroff

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, July 11, 2007; A01

[Prince William County](#) supervisors voted unanimously last night to approve a resolution that targets illegal immigrants by attempting to curb their access to public services and increasing immigration enforcement by local police.

But the resolution approved last night significantly weakens a previous proposal, removing or altering several of its toughest measures but asking county employees to look for ways to lawfully deny services to illegal immigrants.

The largest board meeting crowd in 20 years showed up for the vote at the county government complex, turning [Prince William](#) into a microcosm of a debate playing out in communities across the country in the wake of Congress's failure to reform immigration laws.

"How are we supposed to survive here?" asked Gregorio Calderón, a legal U.S. resident from [El Salvador](#) who said he worries that police will harass him because of his ethnicity. "They're going to pull me over just for being Hispanic."

The previous resolution would have required officers to check the residency status of anyone who breaks a law, no matter how minor. The measure approved yesterday directs officers to check the status of anyone in police custody who they suspect is an illegal immigrant.

The changes were made after county attorneys, police and supervisors expressed concerns about the legality of some of the measures. The new resolution would not deny access to schools and other legally mandated services. Another measure that would have allowed residents to sue the county for providing services to illegal immigrants was also stripped out.

But the measures still place Prince William at the forefront of [Virginia](#) jurisdictions that are trying to check illegal immigration.

"This resolution does have teeth and changes county policy immediately," said board [Chairman Corey A. Stewart \(R-Occoquan\)](#).

Protests before and after the vote and the unusually large crowd outside the board chambers created a charged atmosphere. More than 100 people addressed board members, delaying the vote. Hundreds of others watched on big-screen TVs in the lobby and were reminded to refrain from applauding or booing. One speaker was removed.

When Supervisor John T. Stirrup Jr. (R-[Gainesville](#)) introduced the resolution last month, he said its goal was to deny all public services to illegal immigrants and order local police to check the residency status of anyone caught breaking the law. The altered version charts a more cautious course.

Stirrup's resolution had said that illegal immigration is causing "economic hardship and lawlessness" in Prince William and that county agencies may be encouraging illegal immigration by failing to verify immigration status as a condition of providing public services.

The measure "is the first step towards taking back our community," he said.

The new version gives county workers 60 days to help board members determine which public services can be lawfully denied to illegal immigrants. Unlike the previous resolution, it specifies that services such as emergency medical care and other benefits mandated by law cannot be restricted. At the request of the county's attorneys, language was added to several sections to avoid violating federal and state laws.

A roughly equal number of speakers appeared to support and oppose the resolution. One was removed after berating Stirrup for a joke he made to Stewart at a previous meeting in which Stirrup suggested a "Hispanic flag" could be flown in [Woodbridge](#), which has a relatively large Hispanic community.

Many speakers said they were Hispanic immigrants.

Immigrants "have built our homes; they have built our roads," said Hank Azais, who owns a tax preparation service catering to Hispanics in [Manassas](#).

Others said they were worried about damage to the county's reputation. "Prince William County does not have to become the racist capital of America," said Harry Wiggins, a Lake Ridge resident.

Many Stirrup supporters told the board they applauded the measures and saw the effort as a last stand against rising crime, overcrowding and the failure of Hispanic newcomers to adapt to American culture.

"If we turn our heads and permit illegal entry into our county without making any effort or identification, we are saying our language, our culture, our Constitution, our neighborhoods and our flag are inconsequential," said Sue Fleming, a member of the group Help Save Manassas. "It is a price I do not care to pay."

Others decried rapid cultural changes in their communities. "I'm tired of pressing '1' for English" on the phone, Woodbridge resident Chris King said.

One element of Stirrup's resolution was noticeably absent from the amended version. It would have given residents the ability to sue county agencies if they suspected them of providing services to illegal immigrants. County staffers and supervisors expressed concern about the time and expense the county would potentially spend to fend off litigation.

Privately, though, several supervisors had expressed doubts about the implications of denying public services to immigrants. But given the political climate surrounding the issue, they said they felt compelled to back Stirrup.

"It's a start, and Mr. Stirrup was very gutsy," [Supervisor Maureen S. Caddigan \(R-Dumfries\)](#) said.

Stirrup is taking the right track in the county
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Potomac News
Saturday, June 30, 2007

John Stirrup is doing the right thing. He is proposing that county employees simply ask a question "Are you a legal resident?"

I find it both interesting and disturbing that our legislators, and in fact a small portion of the populace, take a higher view of "non-citizens" than the citizens and legal immigrants working toward citizenship in this country. Federal legislators, in their backroom dealings, attempted to push this failed immigration bill through while the public was unaware of the impending impact on our economy, our security, our way of life.

Had it not been for the public outrage, our country would have been demonstrably changed. Not surprisingly some within the country feel that we should be all things to all people, forgive and forget illegal immigrants due to their "penance" of working low wage jobs.

Never mind the open invitation this would send for the millions around the globe. Never mind the message and slap to those seeking legal avenues. Never mind the lack of research into the impact to our country's well-being in any number of ways.

Make no mistake. Those here illegally are here not for citizenship, they are here because they can earn better wages than their home country, and that is what it is ... their home country.

It's unfortunate that some Prince William Supervisors, managers, and law enforcement feel it is a burden to the citizenship of this county and this country to ask such a simple question. Why is that???

SAM YOUNG

Woodbridge

Bravo Senators Warner and Webb
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Potomac News
Sunday, July 1, 2007

Our Virginia senators appear to be listening to their constituents. Their vote on Thursday regarding the immigration bill helped to stop it dead in its tracks. Several of the U.S. Senators implied that their citizens just "don't understand the bill." I guess they think the people of their state are too dumb! Well, citizens may not understand the entire bill, but they understand that Edward Kennedy, John McCain, special interest groups and George W. Bush wanted to grant U.S. citizenship to over twelve million people who broke our federal laws! These political geniuses wanted to reward people who are sapping our resources, bringing crime to our country, undermining our work force and refusing to assimilate.

We do not have an "immigration" problem, we have an "illegal alien problem." There is nothing wrong with the immigration laws of this country. People opposing the immigration bill put before the Senate are not mean spirited people.

Most people understand the value of immigration to our country. The ancestry of the American citizens spans the world. We do, however; understand that ENFORCEMENT OF OUR LAWS IS WHAT HOLDS OUR SOCIETY TOGETHER! Why would anyone ignore the fact that illegal aliens are NOT immigrants? Immigration implies a legal entry.

I am old enough to remember that promises were not kept in 1986 when we granted citizenship to over three million illegal aliens in return for securing our borders.

They got their citizenship and we got over twelve million more illegal immigrants.

We are lucky. Warner's and Webb's vote confirmed that Virginians can make a difference.

As a lifelong Republican, I'm Impressed! I don't know if they voted their heart, but they listened to the people of Virginia. That is the way it is supposed to work!

Let us continue to drive our point home! Tell the feds to secure our borders and enforce our laws first! Don't shove amnesty down our throats again, and don't hold our security hostage! I believe most towns and cities can deal with enforcement of laws on a local level.

Supervisor John T. Stirrup has proposed that we enforce national laws on a local level.

Maybe we do not have room for illegal immigrants in our county jail. If trailers are acceptable for our children, why are they not acceptable for felons?

Let's get them off our streets! Let's send them home to apply for citizenship legally. Please call your supervisor before they vote on this important issue!

SUE RUECKER

Dumfries

Stirrup and Covington make a lot of sense

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Potomac News

Sunday, July 1, 2007

Supervisors Stirrup and Covington should be thanked by the citizens of Prince William County for their exemplarily leadership skills. Stirrup for his proposed crack-down on illegal immigrants by authorizing police to check the residency status of ANY person detained who is accused of violating a state law or municipal ordinance and Covington for his aggressive stance on trying to recoup our tax dollars from the federal government for the cost of illegal immigrants "draining" Prince William coffers.

One need only be reminded of the two teenage girls who lost their lives in Virginia Beach, killed by an illegal that had a rap sheet.

Taxpayers should look at our local schools as an example, to identify the numbers of children receiving taxpayer subsidized breakfasts and lunches, or more importantly how the educational achievement bar has been lowered because children cannot read and write -- not through fault of teachers who are "busting butt" -- but rather from the lack of support at home. Their parents can't read either.

Clearly, others on the Board of Supervisors act like ostriches burying their head in the sand, hiding from fear and fail to acknowledge what we citizens see on a daily basis. Examples, Julio, Juan and Jorge who loiter at the local 7-Eleven waiting for scab work and who urinate in public after breaking their Corona beer bottles on streets and sidewalks. Or the eight, 10 or 12 people crammed into a single family home with four cars parked on the street, two of which work, one up on jacks and the other leaking oil. Walk in your neighborhood, if you dare, and observe the trash in the yard. We have a serious education problem in trying to teach assimilation for all.

With the recent defeat, by the Senate, of a Comprehensive Reform Act to address illegal immigration issues (border fence, sensors, increase in Border Patrol agent's et al) the problem we face here at the local level will NOT go away. I dare say, the illegal immigration issue will be a topic of discussion that voters will take seriously -- and well they should.

Our quality of life has been impacted by illegal invaders. Consider the fine work ethics and effort put forth by Stirrup and Covington when pulling the voting lever.

A. VIC POILLUCCI

Woodbridge

President's view on immigration appalling
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Potomac News
Monday, July 2, 2007

I was appalled today when I read what President Bush had to say concerning his failed "immigration reform" bill.

One thing that the president had to say about his amnesty bill was that, "Congress's failure to act on it is a disappointment."

He also said, "...Congress really needs to prove to the American people that it can come together on hard issues."

Guess what, Mr. president! The Senate DID prove to the American people that it can come together. You know why? They didn't vote for a bill that most Americans do not want. They didn't cave to the political pressure of an oblivious and foolish White House.

Contrary to what the president thinks, Congress did not disappoint. Congress did what they are supposed to do: represent the people. The Senate actually listened to the voice of the American people. According to a recent Rasmussen Reports survey, only 22 percent of Americans support the bill that President Bush is trying to shove down the throats of the American people.

Putting a stop to illegal immigration cannot be solved by rewarding criminal invaders by giving them citizenship. To end illegal immigration three things must be done. First, the border must be secured. Secondly, we need to prosecute employers for hiring illegals.

And lastly, illegals must be denied access to taxpayer benefits. If you take away the incentive for coming here illegally, would-be illegals would have no reason to come.

Thanks to the Senate for not allowing this amnesty bill the opportunity to become a part of U.S. law. Kudos to both Senators Webb and Warner for voting against it.

MICAH LEE

Woodbridge