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About This Blog



Reporter Wendy Hundley covers Lewisville and Flower Mound. The community is encouraged to contribute by joining the conversation on this blog.

February 2010

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E-Verify compromise offered at Lewisville retreat

3:10 PM Fri, Feb 05, 2010 | Permalink
 Wendy Hundley/Reporter Bio E-mail News tips

After this morning's Lewisville City Council retreat, it seems pretty clear that John Gorena doesn't have the support to **expand the use of the E-Verify system** to help ensure that city contractors don't hire illegal workers.

E-Verify doesn't protect against identify theft, it can't be used to screen employees, it's hard to enforce, and it's prompted some legal challenges that are still being litigated, City Manager Claude King told the council.

Mayor Pro Tem Lathan Watts offered a compromise. He suggested adding language to bidding contracts that would require potential contractors to disclose whether they'd ever been found in violation of immigration laws. If they lie, penalties could include losing their right to bid on city contracts for five years.

King offered a variation on that theme, suggesting that the city encourage voluntary compliance without incurring the risk of litigation.

E-Verify wasn't the only topic discussed this morning before the Council went into a closed session for the afternoon.

Look for the Holiday at the Hall festival to be scaled back. It had poor attendance this year, and some of its funding could be shifted to the Western Day event and used to attract some big-name musical acts.

The Council has been experimenting with videotaping work sessions but there are problems with the audio. Rather than spending \$26K to \$50K for upgrades, talk centered on buying better equipment to videotape council meetings. Watts said he liked work sessions to be informal and taping could hinder discussions.

Comments

Posted by **Brittancus** @ 5:39 PM Fri, Feb 05, 2010

In a Statement by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano, when addressing the Senate Judiciary Committee in December 2009 -- CORRECT? The guarantee was that Obama government had already made

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successful steps in securing our borders, thus moving us one stride nearer to "Comprehensive Immigration Reform." Her main objective was to influence these politicians, that by stating, " Our efforts are achieving their desired results at the border. . . . In short, the security of our southwest border has been transformed." As proof of this incredulous optimistic pledge, DHS Secretary advised to a decline in the number of illegal aliens apprehended along the border, adding, Apprehensions of illegal aliens at the border have dropped to their lowest levels in decades, signaling reduced traffic flows and fewer attempts to illegally enter the United States." ROSEMARY JENKS is the Director, Government Relations for NumbersUSA, who visited with Border Patrol Agents in the Tucson Sector in mid-October of 2009 and asked if they believe the official DHS statement that three illegal aliens successfully enter the United States for every one who is apprehended, they laughed. The reality, they said, is that 10 or more get through for every one who is caught. That was two months before Napolitano shared her revelation with the Senate Judiciary Committee.

So if Rosemary Jenks research is correct, then what she says is astounding, " Meaning that illegal aliens successfully penetrated our borders more than 5.5 million times in FY 2009. That doesn't sound much like a "transformation" to me." she admonished. In DHS Secretary world, however, this transformation explains why she has asked Congress for \$11.6 million less in funding for "border security between ports of entry" and for \$225.8 million less in funding for "border fencing, infrastructure, and technology" for FY 2011. In other words Janet Napolitano--NOT A FRIEND--of the American Worker, but has become a puppet of the open border extremists. Only the relentless pressure by the voting public on--ALL--spineless politicians by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121. Call your state legislators as well, as all states are heavily overburdened with the illegal immigration invasion, that cost taxpayers billions annually. From all lawmakers we must demand a permanent E-Verify for every business nationwide, to restrict illegal labor. To federally deputize every police officer, empowering them to arrest and detain illegal immigrants wherever they may be. Institute a larger force of ICE agents to audit any business that is under suspicion for using foreign nationals in their labor force. Don't let Sen Harry Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Sen. Chuck Schumer underfund the fence, the US Border Patrol or any immigration enforcement. THIS MIGHT JUST BE A FOREBODING OF AN OUTRAGEOUS EFFORT TO FORCE THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM. Get the facts not propaganda at NUMBERSUSA & JUDICIAL WATCH.

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Posted by **Farmer fan** @ 11:18 PM Fri, Feb 05, 2010

"Voluntary compliance" just makes me want to giggle. That is a ridiculous position for our city leaders to take. Is it too much to ask that our city spend our tax dollars with companies who comply with the law? If our city leaders are confident that we currently ONLY use legal labor, why is it such a big deal to require the use of E-verify? Does their reluctance mean that they think Lewisville MIGHT be using illegal labor (in violation of federal law)? That really worries me! We need a shake-up at City Hall -- we simply have to get some leaders who are not afraid to take the right position. Using E-verify shouldn't be so controversial. Maybe some of the "good old boys" need to be voted out of office!

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Posted by **taxpayerjim** @ 4:48 PM Mon, Feb 15, 2010

Citizens of Lewisville should be grateful to our City Council, and City Manager, for having the sense to refuse the E Verify proposal. See the Dallas Morning News story on Farmers Branch costs. This is not a municipal issue.

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