

Surprise council trying to stop day laborers from gathering

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Surprise council trying to stop day laborers from gathering

Erin Zlomek

The Arizona Republic

Aug. 2, 2007 12:00 AM

SURPRISE - Surprise City Council members want to ban day laborers from congregating within the city.

A motion approved at last week's council meeting directed city staff to develop an ordinance banning workers from gathering specifically at Greenway Road and Market Street.

However, District 3 Councilman Doc Sullivan said he hopes the proposal will extend citywide by the time it goes to a public hearing, likely in September.

The intersection targeted by the measure is in the oldest residential section of Surprise and borders El Mirage.

"It used to be 10 or 20 guys would hang out there, now there are over 100. It's starting to cause a safety issue," Sullivan said.

At the spot, crowds of men gather near homes, flagging down cars for odd jobs each day. Many of the participants are undocumented immigrants.

"It's the children that are walking to school that's part of (the safety issue)," said District 4 Councilman Danny Arismendez. "Also, trash collects around there, and it just doesn't look good."

The closest day-labor center, Labor Express near Grand Avenue and Luna Street, closed for good a few months ago, said El Mirage Mayor Fred Waterman.

The lack of a place for day laborers to assemble has prompted some residents to question whether an ordinance would be effective.

"I don't think we can completely prevent it," Arismendez said. "This is something the whole state and whole country are battling. But I do think (an ordinance) will help and make a difference."

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- santiago
- Posted: Aug 2, 2007 at 7:57 AM
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Where, O where can Alonzo Peña* be? Where, O where can he be? I bet he's just taking taxpayer money and NOT earning it! Why, it has been in the news for years that most day laborers are illegal aliens**. And their locations covered in the news as well. Señor Peña*, your "chob" is to deport Illegal aliens**! How about you "git crackin' " at earning your keep? *Alonzo Peña . . US "Czar of Illegal aliens. **Illegal alien Official US designation for people in this country ILLEGALLY. Where, O where can

- santiago
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Come to think of it, perhaps Señor Peña did not do well in "free" English learner class, therefore it's all Governor Napolitano's fault. It ALWAYS seems to be someone else's fault when the "chob" doesn't get done. ¿Correcto?

- [passenger15 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Aug 2, 2007 at 8:20 AM
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GOOD...GOOD...GOOD KEEP UP THE GOOD WORKING OF TRYING TO STOP THE ILLEGAL ALIENS.....

- Wayne8369
- Posted: Aug 2, 2007 at 8:42 AM
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I'll tell ya what. A good 80 percent of these day laborers are probably illegals. Let's legalize day laborer's. But the only way they can stand on the corner for it is to have a license. The only way to get a license is to prove citizenship. When the police stop and check for license's,(which is legal for them to check for license's). If they don't have a license, they get arrested for operating without one. While they are being processed in the jail, their citizenship status can be checked. If they're not legal, ship 'em out. If they're legal but just didn't get a license, fine them, make them apply for a license. Then we can start controlling it a bit more. HMMMMMMMMMMMMM????

- [mortega4 | Profile](#)
- Posted: Aug 2, 2007 at 10:03 AM
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I used to live near there,it is a problem,trash,empty water jugs,get rid of them.The last time I had to look for a job I had to go and find it.I couldnt just stand there and wait for a job to come to me.

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