

Immigration on the Table

Obama plans executive actions

(AP)—President Barack Obama is poised to act soon to unveil a series of executive actions on immigration that will shield possibly around 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally from deportation, according to advocates in touch with the White House.

The estimate includes extending deportation protections to parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years. The president is also likely to expand his 2-year-old program that protects young immigrants from deportation.

Timing of the announcement is unclear, though it's expected before the end of the year.

Congressional Republicans are strongly opposed to Obama's plans, and as lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill this week following last week's elections in which the Republicans retook control of the Senate, they vowed to oppose him.

"We're going to fight the president tooth and nail if he continues down this path. This is the wrong way to govern. This is exactly what the American people said on Election Day they didn't want," House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, said Thursday.

Some conservatives in the House and Senate announced plans to push for language in must-pass spending bills to block the president from acting. But other Repub-



President Obama looks to shield immigrants living in the U.S. illegally from deportation.

licans warned that such a push could result in another government shut-down like the one last year over Obama's health care plan.

The advocates, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a public announcement, said that final details of the plan remained in flux. But the White House is likely to include parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, stipulating that they've resided in the U.S. for some period of time — possibly as little as five years. That group totals around 3.8 million people, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Although Obama is not able to grant citizenship or permanent resident green cards on his own without Congress, he can offer temporary protection from deportation along with work authorization, as he has done in the past.

Uphill Battle Ahead

continued ▲ from front

The benefits a good public transit system, for example, one that reaches all parts of the metro area, "distinguishes this town from other, similar sized cities," he says.

But as higher prices for housing and a influx of new residents with higher incomes push disadvantaged people further and further out, "We have a lot of work to do," he notes, "and the biggest challenge is going to be how to best use our resources."

Buonocore stressed a hope for preserving housing that already exists, on top of a goal of creating more affordable housing.

As inner north and northeast Portland continue to gentrify, rapidly rising rental rates and housing costs are making access to this community more and more difficult.

Home Forward uses a combination of strategies to increase access to housing.

Buonocore said efforts to raise wages for lower income earners, for example, is part of the realization that a lot of social justice work starts internally.

Earlier this month, Home Forward

raised its starting wage to \$15 an hour, in hopes that every employee of the organization will make a living wage.

The agency also is led by a new mission statement calling for "A Home for Everyone." The goal is make innovative partnerships to end homelessness and follow up on a 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Since 2005, 12,511 total placements of homeless households into permanent homes in the Portland area have been made. Of this total, approximately 40 percent were families, 23 percent were chronically homeless individuals and 21 percent were survivors of domestic violence. A survey of those helped through these efforts found that 84 percent were still in stable housing 12 months after placement.

The program still has a long way to go, but progress has definitely been made.

Buonocore, who competed against a nationwide search for applicants for his position, says this is his dream job.

"I'm happy to be here, and I can only hope to learn and to get people stabilized in this ongoing work," he says.

Dekum St. Holiday Bizarre Block Party

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2014

Where: 1771 NE Dekum St. (18th & Dekum St. Mkt parking lot.)

Time: 4:00pm-9:00pm

Sponsored by: Bushwhacker's Cider, Bassotto Gelateria Café, Smallerworld, Tamale Boy, River City Holistic Health, Portland Observer, Nutmeg Caribbean Restaurant, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, Columbia Distributing and 18th & Dekum St. Market.

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