

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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## National League of Cities Calls for Immigration Reform

*Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. Represents Milwaukee in Group's Debate on Policy*

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. aided in creating The National League of Cities' Board of Directors' plan to propose national immigration reform, discussed at the group's summer meeting. The board voiced its opposition to Arizona's immigration law and renewed its call for Congress and the Administration to act immediately to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

NLC President Ronald O. Loveridge, mayor, Riverside, Ca., said "It is important the nation adopt an immigration policy that advances the highest and best interests of all residents. Immigration has supported our nation over many decades and has been a source for economic growth and innovation for our cities and the nation. The debate over the Arizona law underscores the urgent need to move forward now with comprehensive reform at the federal level."

Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., who serves Milwaukee on the board as a member of the Finance Committee and chair of the International Council, is a part of the dialog and is representing the city's position in the debate. "I am fully committed to helping the board articulate a position that best serves the City of Milwaukee's position on this issue and reflects the discussion the city has had in response to the Arizona law," Alderman Davis said.

Also as part of its meeting, the Board of Directors, which several years ago had decided to hold its 2011 annual Congress of Cities conference in Phoenix, Arizona, reaffirmed the decision to stand with and show support for Arizona cities who are opposing ethnic and racial profiling.

In calling for federal action, NLC supports legislation that contains key principals including providing greater border security and enforcement, recognizing the human and civil rights of both citizens and non-citizens, strengthening penalties against employers who knowingly employ undocumented workers, creating a program for the admission of temporary workers based upon the needs of the economy and over time qualifying for legal permanent residency, providing adequate fiscal support for city and state governments that are disproportionately

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## **NLC Reform/ADD ONE**

shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system and establishing a process whereby the 12 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United State may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, meeting English and civics requirements, and “waiting their place in line.”

Davis has been an active leader in the organization, serving as past chair of the NLC’s Community and Economic Development Policy and Advocacy Steering Committee and as a member of the International Council prior to his appointment as chair.

The National League of Cities is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

“It is extremely important that the NLC take a clear position on immigration reform and lends its support to a national policy that recognizes the unique needs of cities like Milwaukee while preserving the rights of all,” Ald. Davis said.