

VIRGINIA FIRST FOUNDATION

February 8, 2017

For Immediate Release

In his February 6, 2017 Mayoral Directive, Mayor Levar Stoney has declared the City of Richmond a sanctuary city for undocumented immigrants. The order, calling on law enforcement to not participate in Immigration Customs Enforcement agreements, is not creating a culture of inclusion, but rather sends a message that lawlessness will be encouraged in the Commonwealth's capitol city. The Virginia First Foundation is calling on the Mayor to put the safety, security, and financial stability of Richmond residents ahead of the leftist political agendas being pushed by Governor McAuliffe and his cronies.

“With an estimated 28,000 Richmond City residents out of work, it is irresponsible for the Mayor to invite in undocumented workers who will compete in a job market that is essentially not growing. These illegal immigrants are sharing in our Commonwealth's resources such as seats in our K-12 classrooms already strained by size and funding especially in the cities schools. Richmond City Schools currently report a student to teacher ratio of 22 to 1 for their Middle and High Schools, and free/reduced lunch program participation at 75%. Couple this with an increasing unemployment rate you can imagine the financial implications of welcoming illegal immigrants to the city. Make no mistake, this Mayoral Directive will serve as a beacon to draw illegal immigrants into the city and central Virginia, competing for housing assistance, food assistance, and other resources desperately needed by the city's residents,” said Chris Shores, Director of Grassroots Organization.

Shores went on to say, “Those supporting the Mayor will try and make this about their own left leaning special interest groups and not the common good of its citizens. This is about the safety and security of Richmond residents plain and simple. Why would the Mayor attempt to politically grandstand while so many of it's citizens face security, safety, community development and educational issues? Virginians do not want their Capitol city turning into an East coast version of San Francisco.”

Today the Virginia First Foundation will be joining with the citizens of Richmond to announce a petition drive that calls on Mayor Stoney to reverse his administrative action and put Richmonder's first. These petitions will be delivered to the Mayor over the next few weeks with the hope that he will respond to those that he represents and not continue to take make policy that appeases the special interests of his liberal benefactors.

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