

Reclaiming Our County

Other Jurisdictions Should Follow Prince William On Illegal Immigration and the Rule of Law
Sunday, July 15, 2007; B08

The rule of law is a difficult thing for a democracy to ignore. As the oldest democracy on Earth, we Americans recognize the rule of law and honor and embrace it. In [Prince William County](#), we're acting to reaffirm our commitment to the rule of law.

We are proud of our nation's long history of embracing legal immigrants. The United States is unparalleled in terms of the generosity, compassion and opportunity it offers those who enter legally. Indeed, legal immigration has helped to make America what it is today. As President [Ronald Reagan](#) said, we are that "shining city on a hill." We are a beacon of hope for the world to emulate, and in places desolate and hot, wretched and poor, peoples from all walks of life want only one thing: to become Americans.

Consider the expression "only in America": Here, anyone, of any background, race, creed or religion, can accomplish anything they set out to achieve. Let's never lose sight of how uniquely fortunate we are to be Americans.

And all that America asks in return is that you establish legal citizenship. Once you become a citizen, your opportunities to pursue the American dream are limited only by your imagination.

Two weeks ago, as we celebrated the 231st anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it was heartening to read story after story of individuals from all corners of the world who had applied legally and waited, in many cases for years, for the chance to raise their right hands and swear allegiance to the United States of America and become U.S. citizens. Those who choose to avoid the process of establishing legal citizenship get stuck in the limbo of a permanent underclass of below-market, off-the-books compensation, substandard housing, limited upward mobility and no opportunity to pursue the American dream. On the macro level, illegal immigrants who enter [Prince William](#) seeking economic opportunities would probably be far better off if they stayed in their home countries and helped to bring about economic change there.

The problem of illegal immigrants in Prince William is exacerbated by their general disregard for the rule of law, abuse of taxpayer-funded services and obvious lack of interest in seeking citizenship or ever embracing American ideals. Rather, it seems their sole motivation is economic. Last year, illegal immigrants sent an estimated \$45 billion out of the U.S. economy to their home countries.

Last week, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution that I presented to increase immigration enforcement, limit services to illegal immigrants and reaffirm the rule of law. We in Prince William are making a conscious decision about the future of our county and our communities. Left unchecked, illegal immigration will almost certainly put our county on a downward spiral, similar to the patterns to be found in the Third World countries these illegal immigrants left. Our citizens want to reclaim their neighborhoods and communities, and they recognize the federal government's inability or unwillingness to resolve or even address this chronic problem. They will no longer accept inaction. They want us to act, and so we are.

We recognize that one local jurisdiction cannot solve the problem of uncontrolled borders, but we can address our corner of America. We hope that other jurisdictions will be emboldened to act similarly.

-- [John T. Stirrup](#)

[Gainesville](#)

The writer, a Republican, is a Prince William County supervisor. He will take questions at 1 p.m. tomorrow on [washingtonpost.com](#).

[Johnhender](#) wrote:

It is about time someone told it like it is . a true american who decided not to sit on hands while his town went to crap. It take guts which a lot of people dont have

7/14/2007 8:26:45 AM

[ajeanel](#) wrote:

Very well stated. But watch Montgomery County, here they come!!

7/14/2007 8:47:25 AM

[rcubedkc](#) wrote:

Every state, county, city and town needs a guy like this.

7/14/2007 9:25:55 AM

[Lavrat2000](#) wrote:

Hooray and well said. I hope that many more counties follow your lead.

7/14/2007 9:44:27 AM

[american1](#) wrote:

A good article! I am surprised the Wapo allowed it because there is no doubt where they stand. But he is absolutely correct they do not want to be American Citizens they are here for jobs and welfare. They retain loyalty to their home countries and most hate American and American Ideals. The first thing they do is create an environment like they flee from in their home countries. If the amnesty bill had passed in a few years this Nation would have become a Spanish speaking society of Corruption, Crime, Poverty, Misery and Cruelty in other words the same type of society they have created in their home countries!

7/14/2007 10:47:46 AM

[yellowyankeesyard](#) wrote:

JOHN T. STIRRUP----YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, MY HAT IS OFF TO YOU, DO NOT BACK DOWN, YOU HAVE THE RESPECT OF AMERICANS AND WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT FAIRFAX AND LOUDON COUNTY WILL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.

7/14/2007 10:50:38 AM

[rramos](#) wrote:

The mean-spirited legislation proposed by Mr. Stirrup hides behind the usual platitudes about "the rule of law" and supporting legal immigration. But the real motives behind the proposed ordinance can be seen in Mr. Stirrup's own comments...

"The problem of illegal immigrants in Prince William is exacerbated by their general disregard for the rule of law, abuse of taxpayer-funded services and obvious lack of interest in seeking

citizenship or ever embracing American ideals. Rather, it seems their sole motivation is economic. Last year, illegal immigrants sent an estimated \$45 billion out of the U.S. economy to their home countries."

Mr. Stirrup's blanket indictment over an entire group is supported by only one fact: they sent \$45 billion to their home countries. All the other allegations are unsubstantiated smears. Where are the statistics on the abuse of public services? What evidence does he offer for their "general disregard for the rule of law" or their "unwillingness to embrace American ideals?" This is prejudice in its purest form--and it is going to be made into law.

Sadly, the reason lies with the failure of our federal government. Their lack of political will has wrought this kind of short-sighted lawmaking. And this is only the beginning. The worst of these laws is yet to come.

7/14/2007 10:58:46 AM

[goziner](#) wrote:

Kudos

7/14/2007 11:30:28 AM

[budswisr](#) wrote:

Hooray for Prince William County. You will probably go down in history as the Bunker Hill of this generation. Were are Minute Men took another stand for or independence.

God Bless You and may my the rest of America show some support for our country by boycotting Mexico.

7/14/2007 11:34:54 AM

[kendog100](#) wrote:

Maybe the WaPo is waking up to logic - this is a very intelligent perceptive commentary on the impact of illegal immigration on the U.S.

Another fact to consider, recently Carlos Slim surpassed Bill Gates as the richest man in the world and Mexico has more billionaires than Switzerland. Why should U.S. citizens have to subsidize the rich of Mexico by taking care of their poor and allowing those poor to send back over 23 billion annually? Wake up America!!!

7/14/2007 1:31:49 PM

[Patriot1](#) wrote:

The 23B that the illegal Mexicans send back to Mexico is a pittance compared to what they cost American taxpayers in the USA.

Our taxes should be used for public safety and protection and furthering the rule of law not helping illegals violate it further. Elimination of all taxpayer services for illegals is a good start. Denying them houses and free medical care are other steps. But, arresting and deporting them should precede all of those.

Unfortunately, the local state and national Democrats favor asylum and amnesty. Gov Tim Kaine and Gerry Connolly (Fairfax) want taxpayers to spend more on support for illegals. Coonnolly even uses tax dollars to advertise in Spanish on Spanish-only TV and radio encouraging the illegals to stay and discouraging all foreign language speakers from learning the language of the

Commonwealth - English!

Connolly should have been recalled years ago for corruption. Hopefully, he will be expelled in November from ever holding public office again.

7/14/2007 2:42:33 PM

[peitho70](#) wrote:

For those who think that illegal immigrants are in the shadows and quietly waiting for the next presidential election to keep pushing for Amnesty, are wrong.

Currently there are many Spanish radio stations in Los Angeles, specially the 1020 AM and many others from Univision Network, who are encouraging illegal immigrants to marry U.S. Citizens, and to have children (Anchor Baby) to legalize their immigration status.

Also, these radio stations hosts are encouraging Latinos U.S. Citizens to vote for Democrat candidates to gain control on both Chambers in Congress to facilitate a passage of another Amnesty Law in the future.

Not only that, many Latin American Presidents including Mexico's Felipe Calderon are planning to gather money to finance key U.S. Senators campaigns in exchange of support and lobby for an Amnesty Law.

It is vital to keep writing U.S. Senators and House members to pass a law something like, Border Security and Employee Verification Act to halt illegal immigrants and increase penalties including jail time (7 years minimum in a federal penitentiary) for those employers caught hiring illegal immigrants and for failing to verify their legal status in this country.

It is imperative, Act Now. Keep writing to Congress people and loudly tell them to pass an Employee Verification and Border Security Act.

7/14/2007 3:25:55 PM

[Cdalealden](#) wrote:

It cannot be stated enough: although the Supervisors on the county board of Prince William may only perceive themselves as doing their jobs (which is true), are true heroes in the highest tradition of patriotism and American service. Anyone that has worked for a period of time has had the opportunity to see those who collect a paycheck for work they refused and avoided doing. Everybody does not do their job, and in a time when there is propaganda being distributed by powerful media forces, it is refreshing for the citizens of this nation as far away as California (where the third world cultures have overrun many municipalities) to witness the job being done properly. My hope is that other areas will gain even a portion of the courage that you have demonstrated.

7/14/2007 3:35:02 PM

[peitho70](#) wrote:

I do agree with the people of Prince William County for taking a vital step forward and doing

something to protect their county.

The State of Arizona is trying to pass a state law that would penalize employers who have illegal aliens in their work force.

If U.S. Citizens don't act now, tomorrow will be too late. At the present rate of how illegal immigration is multiplying, sooner than 2042 as projected by some experts, American Cities would resemble something like Guadalajara, Monterrey, Tijuana, Nuevo Laredo, Ciudad Juarez and Mexico City with a full blown of corruption, drugs and cultural degradation.

Just look at the so called future of America the Latino political leaders such as the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villa-Raigosa, Los Angeles County and City Attorney, Rocky Delgadillo found in corruption acts.

According to the Federalist back in 1787, a form of Federal Government was necessary to protect our country but look what some in the Federal Government has have converted in, sponsors of the law breakers.

Some one if not the Federal Government Officials who are there in that job to protect us is going to do the right thing for the United States.

For that reason, I ask you to take action now and keep writing to Congress members and loudly tell them to pass something like a Real Employee Verification and Border Security Act.

Please take action now and phone, write, and e-mail your Congress Member to do something to halt and expel the illegal immigrants who are in the country.

The United States of America needs you, Act Now

7/14/2007 4:18:51 PM

[Cdalealden](#) wrote:

rramos,

It is a natural reaction for the devil to disagree with godly action, and it is also the timely response of men like Nehemiah not to consider the advise and opinion of the devil. He was able to get his wall built in record time by withstanding the name calling and the false accusations of wrong doing. You remind me of the devil's team.

7/14/2007 5:02:59 PM

[peitho70](#) wrote:

Things are more serious than anyone would imagine to. Currently in the Mexican State of Baja California for many, a drug cartel lord is running for the Governor's Seat, Jorge Hank Rhon from the oldest and most corrupt political party that ruled Mexico for over 71 years, the PRI.

This corrupted and evil man, Jorge Hank Rhon is accused by many in Mexico to protect organized crime and he owns an enormous wealth product from illegal drugs sold in American

soil.

Also many said, when this man was the Mayor of the City of Tijuana, he protected drug cartels to build many underground tunnels to cross drugs and millions of illegal aliens into the United States of America.

At this pace, a double layer fence along the Border with Mexico is going to do nothing. Immigration Law Enforcement should be more aggressive in all fifty states of the Union.

Recently an underground tunnel was uncovered in the borderline of the State of Arizona and Mexico. That tunnel was found filled with Marijuana and perhaps was used to cross illegal aliens into this country.

I am telling you fellow Americans, we must act now before is too late.

To fight against illegal immigration we must do so in two fronts, at the Mexico-U.S. Border with high technology equipment and at every work place in the U.S.

Also, we must demand from Federal Government Officials to enforce the immigration Laws in the books and to incarcerate employers for hiring illegal aliens.

The responsibility falls on us, the people of the United States of America to protect our country from these ill-vicious people.

7/14/2007 5:09:50 PM

[asmith1](#) wrote:

Apparently, "some one(s)" stands to lose alot of money with these new laws. Last night on the news, during an interview with John Stirrup, he said has received death threats and, to protect his family, he has removed all references to them from the County and other websites.

Everyone who supports these laws and John Stirrup, I encourage you to email the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and let them know you stand by them and John Stirrup.

It's a pretty sad day in America when local legislators take steps to protect the rights of the legal residents who voted them into office only to be innundated with death threats and threats against their family.

And how much you want to bet, ACLU, LaRaza and LULAC will be right in the midst of it, fighting for First Amendment Rights of people to threaten law makers for enforcing our laws.

While you're at it, check out this year's latest House Bill — H.R. 1999, cosponsored in April 2007 by Reps. Ruben Hinojosa of Texas and Rick Renzi of Arizona — to give \$10 million a year to a radical mmigration group, the National Council of La Raza.

7/14/2007 5:52:23 PM

[soychicano77](#) wrote:

John Stirrup is a political opportunist. He is bashing Latinos, and using you knuckle heads to advance his political career. Where was he several years ago during the housing boom? And Latinos were hard at work building those expensive homes.

You people think by removing Latinos that we are going to go away. Even before this influx of Latino Immigrants. Mexican American, and Puerto Ricans were the fastest growing minority. Guess what? We are not going anywhere. Your going need our votes. We won't forget this. Plus as our numbers grow across the US we will request bilingual education, and you are going to pay for it.

Have mighty fine day.

7/14/2007 9:12:06 PM

[twistedreality109](#) wrote:

american1 wrote this one day posting and I saved it. It is worth reading again, my thanks for the original post by him (or her).

INS/FBI Statistical Report on Undocumented Immigrants (our government cannot even call them illegal aliens)

2006 (1st quarter)

95% of warrants of murder in LA are for illegal aliens.

83% of warrants for murder in Phoenix are for illegal aliens.

86% of warrant for murder in Albuquerque are for illegal aliens.

75% of those on the most wanted list in LA, Phoenix and Albuquerque are illegal aliens.

24.9% of all inmates in Cal detention centers are Mexican nationals here illegally.

40.1% of all inmates in Arizona detention centers are Mexican nationals here illegally.

48.2% of all inmates in New Mexico detention centers are Mexican nationals here illegally.

29% (630,000) convicted illegal alien felons fill or state and federal prisons at a cost of \$1.6 Billion annually, paid by US TAXPAYERS!!!!

53% of all investigated burglaries reported in CA, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona and Texas are perpetrated by illegal aliens.

71% plus of all apprehended cars stolen in 2005 in the above listed states were stolen by illegal aliens or transport coyotes.

47% of cited/stopped drivers in Arizona have no license, no insurance, of that 92% are illegal aliens.

63% of cited/stopped drivers in Arizona have no license, no insurance, of that 97% are illegal aliens.

66% of cited/stopped drivers in New Mexico have no license, no insurance, of that 98% are illegal aliens.

BIRTH STATISTICS

380,000 plus "anchor babies" born in the US in 2005 to illegal alien parents, making them automatically US citizens, and, under our laws, entitled to "invite" the rest of their family with them.

97.2% of all costs of these births were paid by AMERICAN TAXPAYERS.

66% plus of all births in CA are to illegal alien MEXICAN on medical paid for by the US TAXPAYERS.

My thanks again to american1, a long piece, but needs to be read by all.

7/15/2007 1:05:50 PM

[Carrick319](#) wrote:

What follows then, building a monument to Mr. "inflammatory" Stirrup, the next Rep Tancredo. Obviously, he's an opportunist. After all, Alabama's Senator Sessions only important issue is harassing undocumented immigrants within the US. Wait a couple of months to see whether Stirrup is really committed to his legislative functions. I bet that he isn't going to do something to fix other problems in his County.

7/15/2007 2:54:53 PM

[datdamwuf2](#) wrote:

The answer needs to be federal enforcement of immigration laws and part of that is enforcing the laws about hiring illegals. It is the most important part, if US employers are afraid to hire illegal aliens, they will go home. Period. Deporting illegal persons will do no good at all so long as the borders are porous and they know they can get a job if they come back. Another article in today's paper shows that not only are illegal persons unfazed by this legislation but that they are indeed taking jobs from Americans. One illegal is quoted as making \$17 an hour and says an American won't do his job. That is about \$44K a year. You telling me no American will take that job? Give me a break.

7/15/2007 2:56:07 PM

[Carrick319](#) wrote:

Dear datdamwuf2, tell us one type of job you're talking about. 17 dollars an hour is good money. However, if it's cleaning the windows in the last floor of the Empire State Building, I wouldn't take it. Peace.

7/15/2007 3:01:30 PM

[nowanna](#) wrote:

"Reclaiming our county" a title that gives away the subtext of what is going on in Prince William. It is commendable to be for the rule of law and the Federal Government should enforce our laws but these local measures simply don't work and just engender a climate of fear and hatred. It is less than a coincidence that these laws are passed in areas where legal hispanic residents threaten to become the political majority in the not to distant future, like Prince William and Herndon. By "Reclaiming Our County" some people really mean "lets go back to a white anglo county." In today's Washington Post there was mention of the government of the City of Manassas being investigated for housing discrimination against hispanics right in the heart of Prince William. What many of us object to is not enforcement of our laws but that demagogues are creating a climate of fear against our legal neighbors who happen to be hispanic.

7/15/2007 6:01:07 PM

[WhiteCubano](#) wrote:

soychicano77, let's face it, most Hispanics working at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are upper class and white, and they don't associate with illegal alien lower class Hispanics.

7/16/2007 12:44:55 AM