STATEMENT FROM MAYOR TOM BUTT REGARDING THE SUPREME COURT RULING BLOCKING EXECUTIVE ACTION OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTS OF AMERICANS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS (DAPA)

June 23, 2016

In response to the Supreme Court’s ruling this morning on President Obama’s executive action on DAPA and expanded DACA, Mayor Tom Butt released the following statement:

“Today's Supreme Court ruling on #DAPA is extremely disappointing. Under DAPA, more than 720,000 immigrants nationwide were able to access work permits and driver’s licenses, among other benefits, and had temporary relief from deportation. The law created a more inclusive workforce by driving a more productive economy; it kept families together and allowed families to come out of the shadows; and it provided a clear pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of individuals.

Investing in immigrants benefits communities many times over. In Richmond, we know that serving undocumented persons without prejudice improves their access to jobs, thereby enhancing their prospects for independence and prosperity - all to the overall benefit of our city's health and safety. These efforts are also consistent with our most cherished values of inclusion and equity.

Richmond will continue to be a safe and welcoming city for immigrants, with the aim of proactively counteracting fear and providing families with help and support. We are a Sanctuary City, and will continue to enforce our policies designed to allow all residents to live free from discrimination, hostility, abuse, violence, exploitation and fear.

In addition, my administration will continue to be a member of Cities For Action, a coalition over 100 mayors and municipalities that are leading the effort to support stronger, safer and more economically prosperous cities and counties through immigration action.

Together, we will continue to welcome and embrace new immigrants in Richmond, collaborate with others to shape the national debate on immigration, and promote legal and community-based efforts in support of DAPA and DACA.

The #FightForFamilies continues.”

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