



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**American Nationalist Group Launches ‘Operation Defund Sanctuary Cities’;  
Files Initiative to Repeal Utility User Taxes in Cudahy, CA**

*Proponents only required to gather 62 signatures to force vote under Prop 218*

(Torrance, CA, May 30, 2017) – Today, proponents of a local initiative seeking to repeal the utility user tax (UUTs) in the sanctuary city of Cudahy, CA took the first step by filing paperwork with the elections official. American Children First, a group comprised of nationalists and immigration hardliners, announced the beginning of ‘Operation Defund Sanctuary Cities.’

**“We plan to target the revenue sources of sanctuary cities by using the provisions of Prop 218 to place repeal measures on the ballot,” said Joseph Turner, founder and executive director of American Children First. “With very little effort and minimal allocation of resources we can attack local sources of income these sanctuary cities rely upon.”**

Cudahy residents and businesses are taxed on their various utility bills. This includes telephone and cell phone bills, water and trash hauling, along with gas and electricity. Residents pay a 4 percent tax on each of these bills while local businesses must pay 8 percent on each.

The UUT accounts for roughly 13.5 percent of Cudahy’s general fund revenues while its sales tax accounts for more than 16 percent. Both taxes along with parcel taxes used by some school districts and other local government entities are subject to Prop 218 repeal.

Passed in 1996, Proposition 218 is a taxpayer protection measure that allows citizens to repeal some taxes and fees using the state formula for qualifying initiatives. The formula mandates that proponents gather signatures equaling 5 percent of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election by that city or district’s voters.

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In Cudahy, 1,238 votes were cast in the November 2014 race. Consequently, American Children First needs to only gather 62 signatures to put the measure on the ballot.

Even rather large cities like Torrance, CA with a population of approximately 150,000 people have attainable signature requirements, or just 1,679 signatures.

**“The working class people of Cudahy are overtaxed just like the rest of us and we believe the time is right to launch this campaign,” Turner said, alluding to recent increases in state gas and vehicle taxes passed by Democrats in Sacramento.**

In 2015, Cudahy declared itself a sanctuary city. For many years, it and many other neighboring cities along the “Corridor of Corruption” like the City of Bell have been infested with corruption, arrests of elected officials, and unmitigated greed amounting to theft of taxpayer funds. A state audit of Cudahy in 2014 “found an almost complete lack of internal controls; questionable leave pay for some city officials; uncontrolled credit card spending; city council meetings that were not recorded properly; as well as bank accounts that were not reconciled.”

Now that the notice of intent to circulate a petition and the filing fees have been paid, the city attorney must prepare a ballot title and summary within 15 days. Proponents must then publish this information in the newspaper and show proof to the city before they can begin gathering signatures. They will have 180 days to qualify the measure.

*Joseph Turner is the Executive Director of American Children First and author of the “American Children First” initiative. He previously founded the anti-illegal immigration group Save Our State and also authored the City of San Bernardino Illegal Immigration Relief Act (IIRA) in 2005. The IIRA served as the model for dozens of local jurisdictions, most notably Escondido (CA), Farmers Branch (TX), and Hazleton (PA). Farmers Branch and Hazleton had their ordinances struck down by their respective Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal for each case. Turner can be reached at: [info@americanchildrenfirst.org](mailto:info@americanchildrenfirst.org).*