



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Second Sanctuary City Targeted for Defunding by Nationalist Group;
Initiative Filed to Repeal Utility User Taxes in Huntington Park, CA**

City council appointed two illegal aliens to city commissions in 2015

(Torrance, CA, June 19, 2017) – Today, two residents of Huntington Park, CA proposed a local initiative seeking to repeal the utility user taxes (UUTs) by filing paperwork with the city clerk as part of the ‘Operation Defund Sanctuary Cities’ campaign launched by American Children First.

The Huntington Park city council appointed two illegal aliens to city commissions in 2015. American Children First filed an identical initiative in neighboring Cudahy, a self-declared sanctuary city.

“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 defund sanctuary cities.”

Huntington Park residents and businesses are taxed on their various utility bills. This includes telephone and cell phone bills, water, gas, and electricity with taxes ranging from 9 to 9.75 percent.

The City’s adopted budget for FY 16/17 estimate \$6.25 million in UUT revenues accounting for more than 23 percent of the general fund revenues.

Both proponents, including one immigrant, are longtime residents. Daniel Salazar, 37, was born and raised in Huntington Park while Nick Ioannidis emigrated from Greece in 1969 and opened his own tailoring business.

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“I’ve seen the problems that come with illegal immigration while the current council has embraced and welcomed it,” said Salazar. “I’m hoping that by repealing the utility tax it’ll force them to acknowledge the American voters in the city that do not agree with the unlawful direction they want to take the city in.”

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.

In Huntington Park, 3,505 votes were cast in the November 2014 race. Consequently, American Children First needs to only gather 176 signatures to put the measure on the ballot.

“The working class people of Huntington Park 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.

Now that the notice of intent to circulate a petition has 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.

Funds used to file this initiative came directly from donations sent to the American Children First’s “GoFundMe” page by readers of Breitbart News after the website placed a story about the Cudahy initiative on their front page. The remaining funds will be used to file at least one other initiative to defund a sanctuary city yet to be named.

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.