

RESOLUTION 2007-15

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE “25-MILE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMIT” FOR MEXICAN NATIONALS TRAVELING WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO WITH LASER VISAS TO AT LEAST 100 MILES.

WHEREAS, the Laser Visa was created to allow frequent, low-risk visitors to cross the U.S./Mexico border to shop or visit with their families; and

WHEREAS, current rules permit individuals to travel up to 25 miles into the United States without having to pay an additional fee, secure an I-94, and undergo a secondary inspection; and

WHEREAS, recently, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it was extending the length of time visitors holding Laser Visas are permitted to remain in the U.S. from 72 hours to 30 days; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) promulgated a rule with respect to Arizona that allows individuals to travel up to 100 miles into the state from certain ports-of-entry; because most large cities along the border are approximately 70 miles from the border, businesspersons, tourists, and frequent visitors were not able to travel directly to the city without having to acquire additional documentation to engage in the same commercial activity that occurs daily at cities along the border, and this rule change has resulted in greatly expanded commercial activity along the border in many states without compromising security; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the rationale for extending the geographical limit in Arizona is equally applicable to the State of New Mexico as the three largest cities along the New Mexico border, Las Cruces, Lordsburg, and Deming, are all outside the current 25-mile geographical limit and Mexican nationals seeking to visit the cities must acquire additional permits to do so; and

WHEREAS, as a result, New Mexico has not benefited from the Laser Visa to the extent that other states have, and extending the limit to at least 100 miles would increase economic activity in New Mexico and would not impact our ability to secure our borders

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Silver City, New Mexico, enthusiastically supports the efforts of the New Mexico Border Authority in this endeavor to bring this worthwhile geographical limit to New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of April 2007.

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

Anita Norero, Acting Town Clerk

