



## **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**

### **RESOLUTION 6 –2006M**

#### **WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7209 of the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* of December 17, 2004 calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and implement a plan to require a passport or other document or combination of documents deemed to be sufficient to denote identity and citizenship for all travel into the United States by United States citizens and categories of individuals for whom documentation requirements have previously been waived;

**WHEREAS**, securing land, air, and sea ports of entry is absolutely critical;

**WHEREAS**, Canada and the United States have a unique relationship characterized by the world's longest undefended border;

**WHEREAS**, more than 300,000 people from both countries cross the border every day to work, shop, and visit family and friends;

**WHEREAS**, cross-border communities of Buffalo-Niagara and Detroit-Windsor are tightly knit both socially and economically and residents shop, attend school or church, and events on both sides of the border;

**WHEREAS**, only 23% of United States citizens and 40 % of Canadians hold passports;

**WHEREAS**, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will require all Canadian and United States citizens to have a passport to enter the United States by 2008;

**WHEREAS**, research has demonstrated that a passport requirement is likely to reduce travel demand between Canada and United States to the detriment of both countries' tourist industries and economies;

**WHEREAS**, there is little evidence that the availability of a new form of identification such as the proposed PASS card will have substantially smaller result in curtailing travel demand than a passport requirement;



**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security has advised that there probably is insufficient time to complete the development and pilot testing of alternative secure identification options based on the enhancing existing forms of identification within the proposed timeframe for implementing the new documentation requirements of December 31, 2006 for individuals traveling by air and sea and December 31, 2007 for individuals traveling by land;

**WHEREAS**, evidence suggests that the public in both Canada and the United States is confused about the timing of the proposed implementation of the new regulations, many believing that they already require a passport to enter or re-enter the United States;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative advise the Governments of Canada and the United States that it is deeply concerned about the risk to the economic health of communities in both the United States and Canada associated with the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative request that the Government of Canada formally request the Government of the United States to delay the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative request the Government of the United States to delay implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and that the United States work with Canada to develop solutions that provide for a secure border while facilitating trade and travel;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative be encouraged to attend the Mayor's Summit in Windsor on July 20, 2006 to address the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2006

David Miller, Chair

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

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*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair*