

MIDWINTER UNFAIR PARK THE DALLAS OBSERVER BLOG

TOP BLOG STORIES



Last Night's Vote in Dallas ISD Was a Win for... By Jim Schutze



The Stars' New Logo Seems to Have Leaked By Eric Nicholson



A Man Riddled the Same Oak City 7-Eleven Three... By Eric Nicholson

Immigration

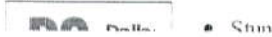
Dallas Deportation Orders Down, But Will Obama's Policy Shift Stick?

By Brantley Hargrove Thu., Feb. 9 2012 at 11:04 AM Categories: Immigration

11 Comments

Like 2

Send



In Dallas and across the country, the astronomical number of deportation orders issued by immigration courts is at last beginning to fall. President Obama's new strategy focuses on intelligent enforcement and prosecutorial discretion. Translated: We'll show bad guys the door, but the undocumented student brought here as a child can probably stay.



The June 2011 gear-shift in policy was a big one for an administration that deported folks at double the rate of its predecessor. It renewed hope among undocumented immigrants seeking only to make a living, and it prompted cheers from advocates, who believe it signals a more humane, pragmatic turn by the Obama Administration.

Problem is, it took months to see any sign that it was actually happening.

But according to Syracuse's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, the first quarter of 2012 saw a six-percent drop in the number of removal orders nationwide. Based on those numbers, they're projecting a 21-percent drop in the number of deportation orders originating from Dallas.

"In my practice, I find that it took some months for the Morton memo to really have an impact. I think ICE was reluctant at first," immigration attorney Furqan Sunny Azhar tells Unfair Park. "Eventually enforcement and removal operations, as well as the Office of Chief Counsel, began to take the Morton memo a little more seriously, and they reevaluated most of the cases for prosecutorial discretion."

Azhar's clients are a testament to that. One has lived in this country for years, but was kicked into removal proceedings because his permanent residency application was denied. He qualified for prosecutorial discretion because he has no criminal record and his citizen daughter was nearly 21 -- mere months from being able to petition for an immediate relative visa for her father.

Another was a high school student on the honor roll who was brought to this country when she was 9. Her sister had an outstanding removal order, and when fugitive operations

Now Trending



A Man Was Gunned Down Last Night in Southlake's Town Square [Updated]



The House Passed a Cell Phone Privacy Measure Yesterday. Police Say It's "Going to Kill People"



Mike Miles versus The World

Stories | Conversations

Save up to 90% Daily. VOICE DAILY DEALS VoiceDailyDeals.com View All Deals

TEXAS BALLET THEATER CELEBRATE HEROISM AND BALANCHINE TBT SPRINGFEST WEEKEND II WYLY THEATRE MAY 24-26 Mozart Requiem & Theme and Variations ARRIVE EARLY TO ENJOY MUSIC, FOOD & MORE TICKETS START AT JUST \$20! texasballettheater.org | 877.626.9200

came looking for her, they nabbed the student too. In neither case will Azhar's clients receive permanent residency. They simply won't have the feds on their heels.

Much uncertainty remains in how the new policy is implemented from court to court. Another immigration attorney, Michael Canton, worries that the drop in deportations is nothing but a short-lived blip. "I wouldn't be surprised if the numbers have gone down temporarily as a result of the memo," he says. "To me, if it has gone down, it's only short term because they're not entertaining any more requests for prosecutorial discretion."

Canton says prosecutors were only taking candidates from mid-November to January 13. "They're kind of doing an audit to see the effect that the memo had," Canton says. "They may implement it again judging on how effective it is. This is just in Dallas."

GET THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Our weekly feature stories, movie reviews, calendar picks and more - minus the newsprint and sent directly to your inbox.

enter email

Email to Friend Write to Editor Print Article submit

We Recommend



Learn What Vanessa Williams Discovered About Her Family History by Taking a DNA Test (Ancestry)



If You See This Dude and He Has His Red Backpack, Run (Unfair Park)



A Dallas Man Was Beaten Unconscious Outside Jenna Jameson's Birthday Party at Le Vu (Updated) (Unfair Park)



Police Say Cassandra Martinez Ran Over Her Cousin after She Wouldn't Chip in for Gas (Unfair Park)

Recommended

11 comments

Sign in or Create Account

+ Follow Post comment

Newest | Oldest | Top Comments



Nym8387

This is an assault on the American work force. You do realize that if these people become citizens they won't mow your lawn or walk your dogs anymore they will apply at your place of business and end up doing your job for far less money and eventually this country will end up just like Mexico where you only have the small population of the super rich and a massive population of the super poor

Apr 3, 2012

Like Reply



Nym8387

This country is going to crumble ALL because We have to many greedy business owners (mostly white) who love cheap labor and a population of

Apr 3, 2012

DO Dallas Observer Like 33,058 people like Dallas Observer. Facebook social plugin

Slideshows



Ten Slobs We Love from the Movies



Night Pool Party at Revive

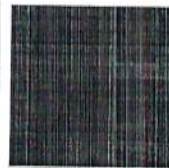


The Awesome Costumes of Dallas Comic Con 2013 (Part Two)

More Slideshows >>



In Case You Missed It



America's Need for Immigration Reform Is on Display at a Graduation Ceremony Near You



Here's How Not to Rob a Doughnut Shop



In Junius Heights, Burton Knight Is Still Fighting to Keep His Water-Friendly Yard

Recommended by

General



DAV Thirtf View Ad | View Site



Green Tea Herbs & Vitamins- ACN Herbs View Ad | View Site



Stylin Around View Ad | View Site

More >>