

PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

If immigrants either witness a crime, or are victims of a crime, but feel too afraid to report it to local law enforcement because they are worried, they'll be deported, everyone loses. If we want our communities to be safer, then we have to make sure everyone can safely report criminal activity to the police.

BEST PRACTICES

- » Formalize a procedure to issue the necessary form, Forms I-918, Supplement B (“U Visa Certifications”), for witnesses and victims of crimes who are helping in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.
- » Institute regular training of police officers and assistant state attorneys in the U-Visa procedures.

“ It's extremely important for our community to feel comfortable coming to the police.”

| Then-OPD Police Chief John Mina

WHY?

- » Local entanglement with federal immigration enforcement erodes public confidence and trust in local police, making victims afraid to report crimes. To address this, the U.S. Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa (U Visa) in 2000 when it passed the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act*.
- » If awarded, U visa benefits may include the following, life-changing benefits for immigrants: lawful status for up to four years; work authorization; derivative benefits for qualifying family members; and eligibility to adjust status to a lawful permanent resident after three years.



61% of Florida voters support a policy that if an immigrant has been the victim of a crime, is helping with the police investigation, and requests a U.S. visa, police will sign a necessary form for their visa application request.