

Date of Hearing: Tuesday, January 26, 2021

To: Members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee:

From: Tony Paetznick, Director of Public Safety, City of New Brighton

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Chair Mariani and members of the committee, my name is Tony Paetznick and I am the Director of Public Safety in the City of New Brighton. I provide this statement to verify the utility of the U Visa Certification process in investigating crimes, prosecuting crimes, and building a trusting and cooperative relationship between our Department and the immigrant communities of New Brighton.

The U visa was established in 2000 as a key tool for law enforcement in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of certain serious criminal activity, and offers protections to victims of qualifying criminal activities. We have found the process of certifying the Form I-918 administratively uncomplicated and worthwhile in protecting victims of serious crimes in New Brighton and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice.