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Trump rolls out plan for path to citizenship for 1.8 million 'Dreamers'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump is ready to sign on to a plan that would open a path to citizenship for as many as 1.8 million "Dreamers," young immigrants brought illegally to the country as children, senior White House officials said on Thursday.

The White House presented the offer as a major concession aimed at attracting enough votes from Democrats. But it includes a number of elements such as tightening border security and deterring new immigrants to appeal to Republican hardliners.

"This is kind of a bottom line for the president," a senior official told reporters, saying it would be up to lawmakers to determine some of the details. "If it's realistic, then he'll sign it. If it isn't realistic, then he won't sign it."

Trump's plan, which the White House hopes will be first voted on in the Senate in early February, would require Congress to set up a \$25 billion "trust fund" to build a wall on the southern border with Mexico, and invest in better protections at the northern border with Canada.

Trump, whose hardline immigration stance was a key part of his 2016 presidential campaign, said in September he was ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program for Dreamers that was created by Democratic predecessor Barack Obama unless Congress came up with a new law.

The DACA protections apply to about

700,000 people, but White House officials estimated there were at least that many illegal immigrants who qualified for the program but did not sign up for it.

Officials said the 1.8 million people could apply to become citizens in 10 to 12 years providing they had jobs and did not commit crimes.

The fight over DACA, which is set to expire in March, was part of the standoff between Republicans and Democrats in the Senate that resulted in a three-day government shutdown that ended on Monday.

They agreed to extend funding until Feb. 8, leaving a small window to come to a deal on immigration. Trump's plan will help those talks, said Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

"I am hopeful that as discussions continue in the Senate on the subject of immigration, members on both sides of the aisle will look to this framework for guidance as they work towards an agreement," McConnell said.

Republican Senator Thom Tillis, one of the lawmakers working across the aisle on a possible compromise, praised Trump's "realistic" plan.

"The framework proposes policies supported by both parties and the American people," Tillis said in a statement.

After Trump briefly outlined some of the measures to reporters on Wednesday during an impromptu question-and-answer session, his comments sparked concern from conservatives in Congress.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz said it would be



FILE PHOTO: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient Rodriguez poses for a portrait in New York

a "serious mistake" to grant a path to citizenship for any immigrants in the United States illegally.

"We see Republicans falling all over themselves to gallop to the left of Obama in a way that is contrary to the promises made to the voters who elected us," said Cruz, an immigration hardliner.

Conservative group Heritage Action called the proposal "amnesty" and said it should be a "non-starter." Democrats were also skeptical. "The White House unfortunately has prov-

en unreliable and wildly unpredictable," Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer said on the Senate floor. "Within the course of hours, they say different things." To become law, the measures would also need to pass the House of Representatives. A second senior official declined to speculate on whether the plan would pass the Republican-controlled chamber.

Despite sanctions, North Korea exported coal to South and Japan via Russia - intelligence sources

PARIS/LONDON/MOSCOW (Reuters) - North Korea shipped coal to Russia last year which was then delivered to South Korea and Japan in a likely violation of U.N. sanctions, three Western European intelligence sources said.

The U.N. Security Council banned North Korean exports of coal last Aug. 5 under sanctions intended to cut off an important source of the foreign currency Pyongyang needs to fund its nuclear weapon and long-range missile programs.

But the secretive Communist state has at least three times since then shipped coal to the Russian ports of Nakhodka and Kholmok, where it was unloaded at docks and reloaded onto ships that took it to South Korea or Japan, the sources said.

A Western shipping source said separately that some of the cargoes reached Japan and South Korea in October last year. A U.S. security source also confirmed the coal trade

via Russia and said it was continuing.

"Russia's port of Nakhodka is becoming a transshipping hub for North Korean coal," said one of the European security sources, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of international diplomacy around North Korea.

Russia's foreign ministry did not respond to a Reuters request for comment sent on Jan 18. Russia's mission to the United Nations informed the Security Council sanctions committee on Nov. 3 that Moscow was complying with the sanctions.

Two lawyers who specialize in sanctions law told Reuters it appeared the transactions violated U.N. sanctions.

Reuters could not independently verify whether the coal unloaded at the Russian docks was the same coal that was then shipped to South Korea and Japan. Reuters also was unable to ascertain whether the owners of the vessels that sailed from Russia to South Korea and Japan knew the origin of the coal.



North Korea's women ice hockey athletes arrive at the South's CIQ (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine), just south of the demilitarized zone separating the two



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Exterior of a present-day Sears store.

Considered to be one of the biggest victims of the retail apocalypse, Sears Holdings (NASDAQ: SHLD) continues its desperate bid to stay alive.

Barely holding on

The short answer? Probably not. Sears Holdings has been in fire-sale mode for years now, and its finances aren't recovering to any significant degree.



An artist's rendering of a new Sears store in the 1960's.

The company has also put several brands on the chopping block. Just over a year ago, it sold its Craftsman line of tools to Stanley Black & Decker for \$900 million.

Sears Holdings To Shut Down Over 100 Stores

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



holiday 2017 sales figures, and they were ugly -- comparable-store sales dropped by 16% to 17% for the period, worse than even the awful 12% to 13% decline of the previous year.



Apocalypse now

Although the depths of the retail apocalypse are somewhat overstated, it's nevertheless consuming businesses that haven't adapted to the new landscape crafted by Amazon and its online peers.

The inability to adjust is a big reason why Orchard Supply Hardware is in the portfolio of Lowe's, Stanley Black & Decker now controls Craftsman, and Sears itself keeps borrowing money to stay afloat.



Closings include Houston Store

More than 100 Sears and Kmart stores to close, including a Houston location

Sears Holdings Corp. will be closing over 100 more stores as the struggling department store chain tries to turn around its business, including one Houston location.



A Sears store Grand Opening in the 1930's.

The move comes in addition to closing about 250 stores announced last year. The closures include the Sears store at West Oaks Mall. Liquidation sales will begin as soon as next Friday at the stores.

(Courtesy https://finance.yahoo.com/news)

Related

History Of Sears, Roebuck and Company

Sears, Roebuck and Company has been a leading retailer of general merchandise, tools, home appliances, clothing, and automotive parts and services for many years. It is a subsidiary of Sears Holdings Corporation.



A Sears store in the 1920's.

In 1886 Richard W. Sears founded the R.W. Sears Watch Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to sell watches by mail order. He relocated his business to Chicago in 1887, hired Alvah C. Roebuck to repair watches, and established a mail-order business for watches and jewelry.



A page out of the original Sears catalog.

Sears meanwhile wrote the company's soon-to-be-famous catalogs. The company grew phenomenally by selling a range of merchandise at low prices to farms and villages that had no other convenient access to retail outlets.

The initiation of rural free delivery (1896) and of parcel post (1913) by the U.S. postal service enabled Sears to send its merchandise to even the most isolated customers.

Between 1920 and 1943 Sears owned Encyclopedia Britannica, which it sold through the catalog. In 1924 General Robert E. Wood joined the company and became its guiding genius for the next 30 years. Wood noted that the automobile was making retail outlets in urban centres more accessible to consumers in outlying suburbs and rural areas.



A Sears store in the 1950's.

In the 1980s Sears diversified into such businesses as real estate and financial services, but by 1992 Sears began selling off some subsidiaries in order to concentrate on its lagging core retail operations.

Advertisement for Southern Television 15.3 channel, featuring programs like '大朋鸟', 'MEMOIRS IN CHINA', '中国远征军', '男人要说谎?', '女人要流泪?', '海峡两岸', and '明星加油站'.

Table of Southern Television 15.3 weekly program schedule for January 2018, listing times and program titles.

A Snapshot Of The World



North and South Korea women's ice hockey athletes stand in a line at a dining hall at the Jincheon National Training Centre in Jincheon



North Korea's women ice hockey athletes arrive at the South's CIQ (Customs, Immigration and Quarantine), just south of the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in Paju



Models present creations from Maria Escote's Fall/Winter 2018 collection during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Madrid



U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos



Women prisoners attend a Thai massage class at Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institute, in Chiang Mai



A farmer works on a rice farm while Mount Mayon volcano spews ash during a new eruption in Daraga



People watch a bird fighting competition in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture



Japanese ornamental "hina" dolls made in the likeness of French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are displayed at its unveiling at Kyugetsu traditional doll shop in Tokyo



Cloned monkeys Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua are seen at the non-human primate facility at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai

HOUSTON, Texas (KTRK) --Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo has announced that officers will be allowed to use their patrol vehicles to immobilize fleeing vehicles.

This morning, Acevedo and other top HPD commanders demonstrated the new procedures at the department's training academy on Aldine Westfield.

Chief Acevedo stated at the press conference that he wanted to make Houston one of the safest big cities in the country. Acevedo said officers will be trained to bump or nudge fleeing vehicles at low speeds, to cause the vehicle to spin out. This technique is referred to as the "pit" maneuver.



Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo has announced that officers will be allowed to use their patrol vehicles to immobilize fleeing vehicles - a maneuver called the "pit maneuver."

Pursuit intervention is a technique used to gently tap a suspect's vehicle during a chase while the vehicle is at a specific speed. The procedure is supposed to enhance the safety of the residents, officers and suspects.

"Suspects are the only ones to blame for injuries in 99 percent of chases," Chief Acevedo said. "I believe suspects who cause death during chases should be charged with murder."



A police squad car immobilizing a fleeing vehicle using the "pit maneuver."

From January 1, 2012, to October 31, 2017, HPD has engaged in 4,831 pursuits, with 30 percent ending in crashes and 6.8 percent ending

in injuries, according to reports. There's an average of 5 fatalities a year.

"I want the community to know your lives matter. Officers lives matter. That's why we are starting the pit," said Acevedo.

Each class will be 10 hours and officers will only be certified once they are proficient in the maneuver, according to the HPD's technique trainer.

HPD trainers say they will tap the rear of vehicles to make them lose control and push suspect drivers off the road.

HPD To Train Officers To Bump Suspect Cars In Chases Using "Pit Maneuver"

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Supervisors will recommend which officers they want trained. Rookies will not be trained until they prove that they're good decision makers and drivers.

"Next month, the first officers should be on the street trained. This is our Christmas present to the city of Houston," said Acevedo. "For criminals, this is Scrooge."

(Courtesy http://abc13.com/)

Related

Harris County Sheriff's Office Starts Telepsychiatry Program



Shown in photo is Program Cloud 9 CEO J.C. Adams who aids Harris County Sheriff Deputy Fred Lerma during a training session of a telepsych program in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Photo/Houston Chronicle via AP)

HOUSTON (AP) — The nice old man near Old Town Spring calls 911 every month or so to complain about people hiding in the attic of his home.

The Houston Chronicle reports there's nothing there, of course, except the inventions of his dementia and schizoaffective disorder. But he's now on a first-name basis with the Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Response Team.

They don't arrest him, not even when they find 55 gallons of gasoline stashed in the attic to keep out the imaginary people.

Now the Harris County Sheriff's Office may have a better solution. A new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies

with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room.

The program, which started Tuesday, is believed to be the first of its kind in the country, officials said.

"It will help better assess things and find a better outcome," said Sheriff Ed Gonzalez. "We can better pinpoint the best way to deal with each individual."

Telepsychiatry programs are already in use in some county jails and juvenile lock-ups, but the possibility of using it in the field is the brainchild of Dr. Avrim Fishkind, a psychiatrist who is CEO of Houston-based JSA Health Corp.

"If you think about it, the rub with psychiatrists is that there aren't any - it takes months to see them," he said. "I kind of got tired of hearing people complain we were never there to help anybody."

Now, they'll be on call 24/7. But aside from making psychiatrists more accessible to those in the throes of a mental health crisis, the program could end up saving the county money.



Shown in photo, Cloud 9 CEO J.C. Adams trains Harris County Sheriff Deputies on a telepsych program in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Steve Gonzales/Houston Chronicle via AP)

"These are multimillion-dollar savings, potentially," Fishkind said. "Typical mental health and jail stays are thousands of dollars."

Fishkind's company, founded in 2007, already makes use of a fleet of some 70 psychiatrists to offer telemedicine services from California to Louisiana. But

those services weren't portable; most of the clients were hospitals and community clinics.

So to bring the concept to the streets, he approached Cloud 9, an Austin-based startup that had already developed an app to let psychiatrists securely video chat with clients in their homes.

With a few tweaks to the software, developers were able to make the program work for first responders in the field. Verizon pitched in to offer free use of tablets and the cellular network, and the pilot was born.

The program will run for eight weeks or until it's used in 25 to 30 calls, whichever comes first, according to Frank Webb, an HCSO project manager.

For starters, only a handful of deputies and supervisors will carry around the telepsych-equipped tablets.

The logistics are straightforward. When a deputy or the Crisis Intervention Response Team is dispatched to a call involving a mental health crisis, they can dial in to JSA and alert them. Then, according to JSA clinical operations manager Terrie Mayfield, the call goes into a queue for help, and by the time they arrive a psychiatrist can be on standby.

After a video chat session, the psychiatrist will be able to help frame a solution.

So the next time the elderly man in Spring dials 911, a deputy could rush to the scene with help in hand. And the CIRT team could direct its resources to higher-level crises.

It will work better for some scenarios than for others.

"If we are called for someone being suicidal and then we get there and say they're not - that would be perfect for this program," sheriff's Deputy Don Hess said during a training session at JSA earlier this month.

"But a guy naked with underwear on his head in the middle of the roadway? Meh, we'll probably leave this in the car," he said, gesturing to a tablet on the table.

In some cases, the telepsych consult will lead to a referral to the NeuroPsychiatric Center - or, if that's full, the emergency

room or hospital. But in other cases, the psychiatrist might determine there's no threat, call in a prescription, or recommend other counseling. "The goals are to reduce the transportation of patients to the hospital, and see if we can resolve some of these situations in the field and utilize other resources," Webb said.



In theory, having a clinician on call at all times could achieve that goal. But that's a pricey proposition, and guessing where to deploy a professional could be a challenge in an area the size of Harris County. In a Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 photo, Deputies Fred Lerma and Jose Gomez enjoy a call from Dr. Elizabeth Truong during a pilot test of a telepsych program training session in Houston. The new telepsychiatry pilot program will arm deputies with tablets equipped to dial in to psychiatrists for urgent video chats, offering professional help out in the field to people who don't necessarily need to go to jail or an emergency room. (Photo/Houston Chronicle via AP)

Greg Hansch, public policy director with National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas, offered glowing support for the program.

"It has a lot of potential," he said. "It can help people access mental health treatment and keep people out of settings that they don't need to be in."

But despite the optimism, everyone involved admitted it's not clear that the project will work. Will people in crisis on the street want to get help through an app? Will deputies feel comfortable using it? How soon should they make the call for help?

"A lot of the pilot is just to test the viability and the technology of doing this," Fishkind said.

But if it does work, Fishkind has ambitious dreams for the future.

"In my fantasy world, we work with Amazon to use drones to deliver drugs to the site," he said. "I've got to get Uber to provide free transportation and Amazon for the delivery service. You've got to think outside of the box." (Courtesy http://www.chron.com/news/texas/)

Advertisement for JH Roofing Inc. (正茂商業屋頂) featuring services like commercial roof replacement, maintenance, and inspections. Includes contact information for Richardson and Houston offices.

Advertisement for Mei Lian Concrete (美聯混凝土) featuring concrete sales and repair services. Includes phone number (832) 868-1090 and a list of services like patios, driveways, and foundations.

Large advertisement for Phonoscope Fiber (美南報業電視傳媒集團與光聲電信集團) promoting an International Fiber Zone. Features benefits like high bandwidth and reliability, and lists clients like Rice University and the Medical Center.

Plan for National Consumer Protection Week

by Cristina Miranda

January is the perfect month to organize your schedule for the year - and here's a suggestion. Plan an event during National Consumer Protection Week, March 4-10, 2018.

Use NCPW.gov tools to host an event. Do you need an article, tweets or social media images for NCPW? Our feature page has what you need to help you spread the word.



Visit FTC.gov/bulkorder to check out the FTC's free publications in English or Spanish on avoiding fraud, identity theft, credit, debt, and more. (There are no shipping or handling costs, either!)

Big rigs really are screwing up Houston's traffic - it's not just your imagination

By Heather Leighton

If you've ever blamed Houston's terrible traffic woes and bottlenecks on 18-wheelers, you might be onto something. On Thursday, the American Transportation Research Institute released its annual list of the most congested bottleneck for trucks in America and Texas had the most in the nation - 11 locations in Texas out of 100 throughout the nation.

- The data found that the 11 worst bottlenecks in Texas are:
•No. 18 Houston: I-10 at I-45
•No. 19 Houston: I-45 at US 59
•No. 23 Houston: I-10 at US 59
•No. 29 Dallas: I-45 at I-30
•No. 34 Austin: I-35
•No. 41 Houston: I-45 at I-610 (North)
•No. 48 Houston: I-10 at I-610 (West)
•No. 58 Houston: I-610 at US 290
•No. 69 Dallas: US 75 at I-635
•No. 75 Ft. Worth: I-35W at I-30
•No. 93 Houston: I-610 at US 59 (West)



Popular sayings
LA: "It only takes 20 minutes, depending on traffic."
HOU: "Houston, we have a problem"

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