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Dear Citizenship Applicant,

We hope you're doing well. We wanted to make you aware that USCIS has started "neighborhood checks" in Philadelphia for some citizenship applicants. During these "checks," a USCIS officer visits an applicant's neighborhood unannounced and asks questions of the applicant and, in some cases, their neighbors. They are looking for evidence of good/bad moral character and to ensure that everything the applicant said in their citizenship application is true (this includes the citizenship application, fee waiver application, and medical waiver application, if applicable). This is not happening in every case, but it could happen in your case so it's important that you be prepared and know how to respond.

If a USCIS officer comes to your home, you have certain rights:

- YOU DO NOT NEED TO OPEN THE DOOR OR LET THE AGENT INTO YOUR HOUSE unless the agent has a warrant signed by a judge
- YOU SHOULD NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS without your lawyer/legal representative
- YOU SHOULD NOT SIGN ANYTHING without first speaking to your lawyer/legal representative
- YOU CAN GIVE THE ATTACHED "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" CARD TO THE AGENT if you answer the door (show them the reverse side)

We have created "Know Your Rights" cards that you can provide to the USCIS officer, explaining that you do not wish to speak with them without your legal representative. Make sure your legal representative's name and telephone number are on the card and give the card to the officer. If you do not want to open the door, you can slide the card under the door. There are instructions for the officer on the reverse side of the card.

We do not share this information to scare you, but rather to prepare you. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you want to discuss this further.

Sincerely,
HIAS Pennsylvania Citizenship Team
215-832-0900