



**COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 12th, 2011, 6:30PM**

The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 12th, 2011, at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Executive Session Room #1027, Austin, Texas.

Members in Attendance

Tom Esparza, Chair
Laura Hernandez, Vice-Chair
Donald Krupens
Sunny Ogunro
Syed Rahman
Miguel Ancira

Members Absent

None

Presenters:

None

Staff

Natalie Cuccia, HHSD

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Esparza called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
2. **CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATION:** None
3. **PRESENTATION:** Jill Stone of the Refugee Health Screening clinic was absent due to illness.
4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the regular meeting on September 14th, 2011 were approved on Commissioner Hernandez motion, Commissioner Krupens 2nd, on a 5-0 vote. Esparza absent
5. **REPORT: Immigrant Services Network:** Commissioner Esparza briefed the members on the upcoming Citizenship Outreach Event to be held Saturday, October 22nd at the Austin Community College Riverside Campus. Commissioner Esparza dispersed flyers and a volunteer sign up sheet. The event is expected to be well attended.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Election of Officers.** The Commission approved re-appointment of Thomas Esparza and Laura Hernandez to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively on a 5-0 vote. Esparza absent.

- b. **Limit of Immigrant Detainees in Cook County, IL.** The Commission discussed the articles sent out by Commissioner Ancira. Cook County, IL recently passed a law directing the Sheriff to disregard detainers issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Detainers are placed on undocumented immigrants allowing for longer detainment than prescribed by local law. As a result of the new law, individuals are being released before ICE can individual into custody. Travis County has spaced reserved for ICE detainees. Travis County is also the only community in Texas in which ICE has a presence. The Commissioners discussed whether the Travis County Commissioners Court has the authority to pass a similar law, directing the Sheriff to disregard ICE detainers. Commissioner Esparza stated that the Court does not have this authority. No action was taken.
- c. **211 Help Line.** Commissioners discussed the function of the help line. Commissioner Krupens has knowledge of 211 and explained that it is a statewide initiative operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. The Commission went on to discuss the City's 311 Help Line and discussed differences between 211 and 311. Further discussion tool place on whether either Help Line provides any resources for immigrants. Commissioner Krupens contacted 311 was given a number to TU VOS, a Hotline operated by the Austin Police Department aimed at the Hispanic immigrant community. Commissioners discussed the need to have a line accessible to all immigrant populations. No action taken.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Hate Crimes Task Forces.** No updates. Commissioner Hernandez will report on this item as needed.
- b. **Emergency Contact Card for Residents with limited English proficiency.** No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. without objection.