

**RECOMMENDATION**  
**COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS**  
**20131014-005B**

Regarding the Allocation of a Budget to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs  
City of Austin, Texas

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and Travis County are home to diverse immigrant populations and we welcome them in our city and county; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 U.S. Census approximately 18% of residents are foreign-born, and

WHEREAS immigrants comprise a vital part of our local workforce and approximately one-third (150,006) of the local labor force is made up of individuals who speak a language other than English at home.

WHEREAS the City of Austin and Travis County are committed to the public safety, health and quality of life of all residents regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, and physical or mental disability,

WHEREAS the aforementioned commitment is reflected in the existence of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to advise the city council on issues of common concern to immigrants, particularly in the areas of health and human services, education, and the demographic makeup of the Austin immigrant community,

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to monitor requirements of federal, state, and local immigration, welfare and other laws that affect immigrants, and recommend to the city council actions to maximize the benefits to local immigrants under existing laws and to minimize the adverse impacts to local immigrants under the laws,

WHEREAS the Commission on Immigrant Affairs exists to promote recognition of the contributions of the foreign-born to the economic and cultural vitality of Austin; and promote the availability of, and promote accessibility to, local educational, economic, legal, and social resources for immigrants,

WHEREAS since the beginning of 2013, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs has been gathering input from local immigrant service providers on their work, their needs and how the City of Austin might better support the provision of services to the immigrant community,

WHEREAS this input has resulted in an increased awareness of: the large variety of immigrant service providers in the City of Austin that are not tapped into existing service provider networks; the variety of commonalities and disparities of immigrant needs based on populations of origin; and the degree to which the issues and barriers these organizations face cross-pollinates across service sectors,

WHEREAS the potential for immigration reform and the implementation of healthcare reform, the diversity of Austin's current and incoming immigrant populations, and existing barriers to immigrant service integration, are challenges to and/or hinder the delivery of services to the immigrant community,

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, That the City of Austin allocate a 2014 budget of \$10,000 to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to increase its impact and ability to perform its duties in the manners mentioned above, including, but not limited to organizing the City of Austin's 1<sup>st</sup> Immigrant Affairs Conference in 2014 to provide a forum for service providers to participate in targeted discussions to share and learn about available resources; work towards a collaborative, efficient approach to the provision of services

through facilitated networking; and begin troubleshooting current and future issues that will affect Austin's immigrant population.

RECOMMENDED, That the City of Austin sponsor the usage of the Palmer Events Center in 2014 as the site for Austin's 1<sup>st</sup> Immigrant Affairs Conference, a one day event, to convene immigrant service providers to facilitate communication, provide training and hold a forum on immigration.

PASSED by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on October 14 12, 2013.

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on a 3-0 vote.

Attest:

Connie H. Gonzales  
Staff Liaison