



## **Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Monday, January 13, 2014, 6:30 PM**

**Austin City Hall, Executive Session Room #1027**

**301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas**

***Approved Regular Meeting Minutes***

*The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Executive Session, Room #1027, Austin, Texas.*

<b><i>Members Present</i></b>	<b><i>Members Absent</i></b>
<b><i>Peter Shen, Chair</i></b>	<b><i>James Kuhr</i></b>
<b><i>Angela-JoTouza-Medina, Vice Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Nancy Lira</i></b>
<b><i>Sandra Molinari</i></b>	<b><i>Julius Okelo</i></b>
<b><i>Pranav Parekh</i></b>	

***Liaison: Connie H. Gonzales***

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – *Chairman Peter Shen called meeting to order at 6:30pm*
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** *None*
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Tabled for the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.*
- 4. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

### **A. Strategic plan for 2014**

- Use Recommendation on Austin Welcoming City Initiative to set strategic plan for 2014 that will mirror elements from the City of Chicago's New Americans initiative. It will involve reaching out to stakeholders for input-stakeholders are groups that provide services to immigrants i.e. churches, businesses, education institutions, IBM, etc.*
- The Commission on Immigrant Affairs to facilitate dialogue. The CIA will seek to partner with City of Austin EGRSO to conduct conference and recommend that city take into account the information gathered at the conference to define its own vision for Austin as a Welcoming City, Angela-Jo will modify the recommendation for approval at next month's meeting*

### **B. Commission List-serve/newsletter debrief**

- Angela-Jo presented on reports produced after delivery of newsletter: 886 recipients*

- *Pending: Open request for Commissioner contacts to be sent to Angela-Jo to add to the list-serv distribution list.*
- *Next issue: March. Discussion on next issue's format – considering a bio on Peter Shen, Chairman*

#### **C. CAPCOG Emergency Notification System issues**

- *Halloween flood victims in Dove Springs did not receive warning messages. Capital Area Council of Government, Travis County EMS, and Austin Fire Department developed an emergency notification system. The website is only in English. There is no real publication*
- *Action: CIA to submit a recommendation to City Council requesting: effective publication in all languages, conduct community workshops, translation of website, outreach at community events, use 311 system to register the residents. Angela-Jo and Sandra will create a draft for CIA approval*

#### **D. Request for input for Board and Commission Taskforce**

- *CIA recommendations: one taskforce representative per district, city needs to know board recommendations within a month and respond within a quarter, boards should be granted a budget including a social media budget, create a public database with all recommendations (transparency), board vacancies should be filled within two months, allow meeting attendance through a conference call or Skype.*

#### **E. Plan Commission member meetings with County Commissioners.**

- *Tabled for next meeting*

### **5. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

#### **A. Recommendation on Austin Welcoming City Initiative and stakeholder involvement.**

- *Discussed in agenda item 4a.*

#### **B. Letter to city council members requesting a meeting.**

- *Each CIA board member will send a meeting request to their appointed council member by next week.*
- *Draft letter approved on a 4-0 vote.*
- *Possible other action: Attend a city council meeting and sign up for Citizens Communication*
- *Peter Shen to send Councilman Chris Reinly a letter requesting he appoint a new board member to replace James Kuhr.*

### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:**

- *March list-serv content discussion*

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

- *The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm by Chairman Peter Shen.*

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