



Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 6:30 PM

Austin City Hall, Executive Session Room #1027

301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas

Approved Special Called Meeting Minutes

The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a Special Called meeting on Thursday, February 20th, 2014, at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Executive Session, Room #1027, Austin, Texas.

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

Liaison: Connie H. Gonzales

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – *Chairman Peter Shen called meeting to order at 5:30pm*
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**
 - A.** *USCIS San Antonio Field Office Director, Elaine Mueller-Cantu, Bryan F. Salas, Chief of Public Engagement Customer Service and Public Engagement Director, Mario Ortiz, District Director, Jacque Crouse, Community Relations Officer, and Nate Sams, Immigration Services Officer briefed the board on the USCIS mission, current services and possible collaborations with COIA.*
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - *October 14, 2013 meeting minutes approved on a 4-0 vote.*
- 4. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
 - A. Annual Internal Review Report**
 - *Discussed and approved on a 4-0 vote.*
 - B. Format for the next COIA newsletter/list-serv**
 - *To feature bios on Peter Shen, Chairman & Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, Co-Chair*
 - *Story on “Welcoming City Conference”*
 - *Information on Public Appearances and Community Engagement activities of the COIA*

C. Review draft conference proposal

- *Councilman Bill Spelman asked for COIA to create a proposal. Approved on a 4-0 vote with Commissioners Sandra Molinari and Nancy Lira absent.*

5. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. Update on Recommendation 20131014-005C Re: City of /Austin's Social Service Investment Portfolio

- *Council Spelman recommended that Angela-Jo Touza –Medina present concern to The Public Health and Human Services Committee.*
- *Met with Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director of HHSD and suggested questions to include in the scoring process.*

B. Recommendation on Austin Welcoming City Initiative and stakeholder involvement.

- *Refer to item no. 4C.*
- *Recommendation no. 20140220-005B*
- *Approved on a 4-0 vote with Commissioners Sandra Molinari and Nancy Lira absent.*

C. Recommendation on CAPCOG Emergency Notification System

- *Recommendation no. 20140220-005C*
- *Approved on a 4-0 vote with Commissioners Sandra Molinari and Nancy Lira absent.*
- *Notified Public Safety Commission, Commission on Seniors, Veterans Commission and Mayor's Commission with People with Disabilities*

D. Letter to city council members requesting a meeting.

- *Commissioner Pranav Parekh is waiting to hear back from Laura Morrison*

E. Strategic Plan for 2014

- *To include information gathering on:*
 - *Our growth:*
 - a. *Immigrant-owned business*
 - b. *Human capital*
 - *Our Youth:*
 - a. *Children of immigrants*
 - b. *Parents and schools*
 - *Our communities*
 - a. *Public safety*
 - b. *Access to services*
 - c. *Civic engagement*
- *It will identify the city-driven initiatives needed to promote equitable integration in each of the topic areas above, stakeholders would be invited to help:*
 1. *Identify challenges that are unique to immigrants*

2. *Recommend high-impact initiatives to be implemented over the next three years*
 3. *Help inform the detailed implementation plans for a City of Austin driven New Americans plan.*
- *Continue to send out newsletter*
 - *Make public appearances when requested and deemed appropriate*

F. Strategizing Commission member meetings with County Commissioners

- *Tabled for next meeting*

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Anderson H. S. and China Haining H. S. now are sister schools.*

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:

- *Update on meeting with Laura Morrison*

8. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please contact Stephanie Hayden at the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, at (512) 972-5017 or email: stephaine.haydens@austintexas.gov, for additional information. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.