



## **Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

**Monday, April 14, 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, April 14<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>Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, Vice Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Peter Shen, Chairman</i></b>
<b><i>Julius Okelo</i></b>	<b><i>James Kuhr</i></b>
<b><i>Pranav Parekh</i></b>	
<b><i>Nancy L. Lobato</i></b>	
<b><i>Sandra Molinari</i></b>	

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

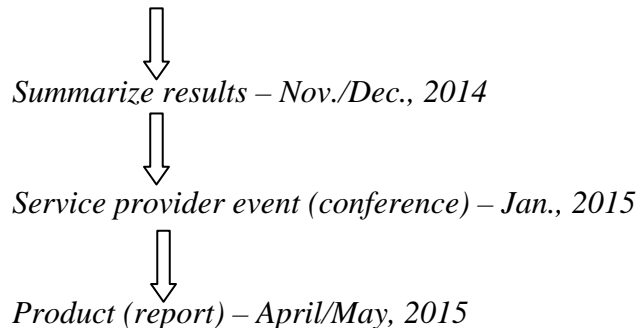
- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chair Angela-Jo Touza-Medina called meeting to order at 6:30pm
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**
  - A. Luis H. Zayas of UT of Austin/School of Social (written report forthcoming)
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - November, December 2013 & January, February 2014 meeting minutes approved on a 5-0 vote with Chairman, Peter Shen absent.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
  - A. USCIS**
    - It was decided that USCIS will provide guidance throughout immigration process.
    - Economic Development/Natalie Betts will promote naturalization through the “Welcoming Program”
    - COIA will setup meeting with Mario Ortiz, USCIS District Director
  - B. Update on work of the Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force**
    - See <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/boards/results.cfm?bid=14>
  - C. Potential Travis County appointment to COIA**

- *Since a significant number of immigrants live in unincorporated areas and since Travis County has historically provided staff support and/or participated in this issue area continuity and/or ensuring that city and county are on the same page in the provision of services to immigrants is important, the COIA will draft a recommendation to city council. Board to review and vote on.*

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

### A. “Austin: Welcoming City” Conference Proposal: Natalie Betts of COA Economic Development-discuss the partnership with COIA on the “Austin: Welcoming City” Conference

- *ED to lead the project by providing some financial support and staff to assist with design. A taskforce has been created of liaisons within city departments.*
- *COIA is will reach out to Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department for support. Meeting with Stephanie Hayden, Asst. Director of HHSD.*
- *Immigrant Services Network of Austin (ISNA) will provide planning support around activities, design, and identifying any issues. They will design a community consultation process to conduct community meetings with immigrants.*
- *Timeline: Community consultations – Sept./Oct., 2014*



- *This report Austin’s vision for itself as a Welcoming City and include topic area based recommendations to achieve this to be submitted to city council.*
- *There will be a planning meeting with Natalie Betts in May*
- *The signing of an MOU between the COIA, the Economic Development Department and Travis County Research and Planning is pending.*

### B. Strategic plan for 2014

- *Will revolve around the Austin, Welcoming City Conference*
- *Placing building blocks for the new city council’s appointees*
- *Continued support for immigrants.*

### C. Strategizing Commission member meetings with County Commissioners: Welcoming Counties

- *COIA is working to present a recommendation to Travis County Commissioners Court to make Travis County a “Welcoming County” – motion by Commissioner Sandra Molinari and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Lira*

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:**

- *Krista del Gallo of Texas Council on Family Violence and a representative from HACA would like to discuss on Immigration eligibility for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA).*

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

- *The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm by Vice Chair Angela-Jo Touza-Medina.*

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](mailto:stephaine.haydens@austintexas.gov), for additional information. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.