



## RECOMMENDATION

### COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Recommendation Number : 20150608-005A : Regarding Proclaiming June 2015 Immigrant Heritage Month (IHM)

WHEREAS, immigrants are a significant part of the Austin and Texas communities, and according to the census bureau, 19% of Austinites and 16% of Texans are foreign born; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has declared itself a Welcoming City, recognize and celebrating the contributions of immigrants to our nation and strives to include immigrants in all aspects of our cities, maximize their contributions to our local economies, encourage their participation in civic activities, and access the resources and services that we provide to residents,

WHEREAS, by launching Austin's Welcoming Cities Initiative, Austin is now participating in the Welcoming America program to create more immigrant-friendly environments that maximize opportunities for economic growth and cultural vitality, and position communities as globally competitive, 21st century leaders,

WHEREAS all relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and others are engaged to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin works to recruit businesses, encourage job creation, promote entrepreneurship, ensure access to education and conduct other activities to grow our local and nation's economy to ensure our residents have economic opportunities to support themselves and their families,

WHEREAS, immigration has played a critical role in helping America meet its steadily growing demand for talent—especially for highly skilled STEM workers, and immigrants have long made outsized contributions to American innovation, both at the highest levels and throughout the economy at all stages of discovering and developing new ideas; and

WHEREAS, in the key STEM fields of computer science, computer programming, and software development, over 50% of U.S. workers with a master's degree are immigrants, and 25% percent of Austin's tech entrepreneurs are foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, Immigrant Heritage Month (IHM) is a nationwide effort to gather and share inspirational stories of immigration in America that is celebrated throughout the month of June; and,

WHEREAS the Universal America ethos of entrepreneurship, inclusion, strength and resilience unifies us all; and,

WHEREAS by highlighting the intersections of each unique immigrant experience IHM 2015 will dispel myths and illuminate how each individual journey has been instrumental to the formation, foundation, and ongoing strength of the United States America,

WHEREAS, according to Section 2-1-125 of the City Code, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs exists 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,

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, That the City of Austin's City Council proclaim June 2015 Immigrant Heritage Month to help our nation remember and celebrate the richness of our immigrant history and highlight immigrant contributions to the American economy and culture throughout history, from the pioneers of centuries past to the tech innovators of today.

RECOMMENDED, the City of Austin use June 2015 as National Immigrant Heritage Month to celebrate today's immigrant families, who are laying the foundation for an even brighter tomorrow.

PASSED by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on June 8, 2015.

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on a 5-0 vote with Commissioner Julius Okelo absent.

Attest:

*Connie H. Gonzalez, Staff Liaison*