



RECOMMENDATION

COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Recommendation Number : 20150608-004C : Regarding the Allocation of Resources to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs for FY 16

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 and is committed to the public safety, health and quality of life all residents regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, and physical or mental disability

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,

WHEREAS it is within the purview of the City of Austin to take proactive measures and prepare for changes in immigration policy and the potential for comprehensive immigration reform and the manner it will impact the demographic and socio-economic make-up of Austin,

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has declared itself a Welcoming City, recognizing 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, the City of Austin participated in the Austin Welcoming City Initiative, which was spearheaded by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs with the support of the City of Austin's Health and Human Services and Economic Development Departments to engage stakeholders in defining a vision for Austin as a Welcoming City through the Austin Welcoming City Report, which is to be made public at the end of June 2015, and

WHEREAS, as a working document, Austin Welcoming City Initiative Report is intended to inform the work and priority areas of the Commission, which includes performing outreach, hosting fora and participating in other initiatives to further raise awareness of the results thereof, and

WHEREAS other Commissions and Committees of the City of Austin have budgets allocated to assist in the performance of their responsibilities and commitments as outlined in the bylaws.

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, the City of Austin allocate a budget of \$5000 to the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to further its work in service of Austin's immigrant community and the community at large so to allow the sharing of the Austin Welcoming City Initiative Report Results through awareness raising processes, including but not limited, partnering with media, publications and hosting informational events in each of Austin's 10 districts.

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