



COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Monday, April 11, 2016, 6:30 PM
Austin City Hall, Executive Session Room #1027
301 West Second Street, Austin, Texas, 78701

Regular Meeting Minutes

The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016 at City Hall, Executive Session Room, First floor in room 1027, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, <i>Chair</i>	Elizabeth Hartman	Piper Nelson
Alba Sereno, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Elisse Jean-Pierre	Apryl Rosas
Karen Crawford	Nicole Merritt	Pedro Villalobos
Krystal Gomez		

Board Members not in Attendance:

Rosalia Austin	Kevin Countie
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Staff in Attendance:

Edna Staniszewski, COA HHSD

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair, Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**
 - Lisa Hinely – to discuss item #4B, since presenter not present, citizen decided to pass.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 2016.**
 - Commissioner Karen Crawford motioned to accept the minutes.
 - Commissioner Piper Nelson seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed 8-0.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Austin Police Department U-Visa Certification Policy – Commander Spangler
 - Item to be moved to May's meeting.
 - B. Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET)/Restore Rundberg – Monica Guzman
 - Item to be moved to May's meeting.

C. Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Briefing by Jim Padilla on:

- Fiscal Year 2016-17 Action Plan
- New, strategic housing plan for Austin
- Upcoming opportunities for public participation
- Item to be moved to May's meeting.

D. Ivanna Neri, Gava Representative

- Item to be moved to May's meeting.

Commissioner Nicole Merritt joined the dais at 6:35p.m.

Commissioner Apryl Rosas joined the dais at 6:45p.m.

E. Recommendation number 201602084D – Supporting the Muslim Community of Austin

- Commissioner Alba Sereno motioned to accept the resolution.
- Commissioner Pedro Villalobos seconded the motion.
- Motion passed 10-0.
- Please note that the Asian American Quality of Life is also looking into passing a similar recommendation as the Human Rights Commission.

F. National Immigrant Heritage Month Events and Proclamation

- Every June is National Heritage Month.
- A draft recommendation was presented to the Commissioners to proclaim June 2016 as "Immigrant Heritage Month".
- The Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding a community event. Recommendations for the event to be proposed at the June meeting.
- We need to think about where the Welcoming Initiative needs to be housed and allocation of budget. Chair Angela-Jo Touza-Medina to lead the recommendation of where it needs to be housed along with the assistance of Commissioner Alba Sereno.
- Specific suggestions for Immigrant Heritage Month Events Suggestions:
 - i. Have community event
 - Ask Ryan Robinson, the demographer, to come present data on that.
 - Include a summary of what the commission has done since the inception of the new body.
 - Keynote on what does immigrant mean? Different reasons? What countries do people come from?
 - ii. Press conference on June 30th
 - For the press conference, send an invitation to everyone featured in the stories plus the Mayor and all of the City Council members.
 - iii. Four (4) part news blast

- Commissioner Alba Sereno to create an outline of the newsletter and forward to Staff Liaison Connie Gonzales and she will forward information to all. Everyone to enter their name by story.
- Story to contain the following pieces: human interest; stats; and policy. Parameters will need to be set. Imagine Austin has some criteria that we will want to incorporate into the story and the final piece to show who your Commissioners are.
- There are several issue areas:
 - a. Tech – Big business
 - b. Music – Student, Professor
 - c. Business – Small business (food trucks)
 - d. Education
 - e. Round out with community initiatives
- The information to be sent to the listserv. The listserv was gathered by the previous board members. An approximate total of 2,000 people. The listing might consist of allies, a suggestion of contacting the Public Information Officer (PIO), Public Safety Office, and other Commissions.
- The newsletter has usually been a summarization of what's been going on, all the policies recommendations that have been made, providing rotating information on the incoming commissioners.
- Angela-Jo Touza-Medina to send a link of the past newsletter to the commissioners.
- Look at terms of an immigrant:
 - i. How they arrived
 - ii. Status
 - iii. Age
 - iv. Gender

5. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Update: Municipal I.D. Card

- Move to May's meeting.

B. Welcoming City Initiative Workgroup reports

- Create a working group on implementing the recommendations we make.
- Commissioner Pedro Villalobos - conflicts on scheduling has caused delay with the Public Safety Workgroup.
- Commissioner Nicole Merritt and Commissioner Alba Sereno – honed in on community contacts; community based banks; economic development; connection with communities being built out in District 4; will be a hub for financial services. A

scheduled meeting in April with Council member Casar to talk about his interest and initiatives. Policy pieces are not yet generated. One aspect in bank pay, for housing and utilities, we will explore with Council member Casar to see if there are any pieces tied into their policies.

- Working Groups are:
 - i. Community engagement (Commissioner Pedro Villalobos and Elisse Jean-Pierre)
 - ii. Housing (Commissioner Alba Sereno and Commissioner Piper Nelson)
 - iii. Education (Commissioner Apryl Rosas and Commissioner Elizabeth Hartman)
 - iv. Public Safety (Commissioner Karen Crawford and Commissioner Pedro Villalobos)
 - v. Health (Commissioner Apryl Rosas)
 - vi. Workforce Development
 - vii. Economic Development

C. Update: CUIA

- Monthly calls/coordinated effort.
- Advocate for policies changes on national effort.
- Commissioner Angela-Jo Touza-Medina to send to Commissioner Krystal Gomez the guide of the calls.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Joint inclusion meeting did not take place due to lack of quorum. Item they are looking into is the Health Equity Officer. In many cities the Welcoming City is housed in the Health Equity office or Diversity office or American Office.
- B. A suggestion of adding the next board meeting date on the agenda.
- C. A suggestion of sending out meeting invitations to the Commissioners.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- A. Have the following as standing agenda items:
 - Update: CUIA
 - Joint Inclusion Committee
 - Working groups
- B. Presenters for Items 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D will be sent a new request to present in May's meeting.
- C. Submit an invitation to the Consulate to come to June's meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Pedro Villalobos motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Alba Sereno seconded the motion.

- Motion passed 10-0.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m.

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