



## **Commission on Immigrant Affairs**

### **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, January 9, 2017 6:30 PM**

**St. John Community Center, Conference Room A  
7500 Blessing Ave., Austin, Texas, 78752**

### ***Approved Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes***

***The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017 at St. John Community Center, Conference room A, 7500 Blessing Ave. in Austin, Texas.***

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Angela-Jo Touza-Medina, <i>Chair</i>	Elisse Jean-Pierre
Alba Sereno, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Glenn Rosales
Karen Crawford	
Krystal Gomez	David Vandenberg
Piper Nelson	Pedro Villalobos

#### **Board Members not in Attendance:**

Rosalia Austin  
Nicole Merritt

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Connie H. Gonzales, COA HHSD

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Angela-Jo Touza Medina, Chair called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION** - None
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December, 2016
  - Commissioner Karen Crawford motioned to accept the minutes.
  - Commissioner Alba Sereno seconded the motion.
  - Approved on a 9-0 vote with Commissioners Nicole Merritt, and Rosalia Austin absent.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
  - A. Councilman Greg Casar** – not present. Voted by board to substitute agenda item. Bryon Oaks, Chief Equity Officer gave a presentation about his new job duties and health initiatives. Some priorities are: to create an equity assessment tool to be piloted at five departments and developing

an equity action team to assure that all residents are receiving equitable services. Board may be called on for support in the future. Mr. Oaks is working with the Joint Inclusion Commission.

- B. Presentation by FWD.us** – not present
- C. Faye Kolly J.D., Texas Legislative Session Updates** – Tabled
- D. Presentation by Texas Here to Stay** – Promoting “Know Your Rights” sessions conducted throughout Austin offering immigrant legal services and soliciting for volunteers to assist. A recommendation was created to amend existing contracts with legal services. Commissioner Alba Sereno motioned to accept, Commissioner Krystal Gomez seconded the motion. Approved on a 8-1 vote with Commissioner David Vandenberg absenting due to lack of knowledge on subject matter, and Commissioners Nicole Merritt and Rosalia Austin absent.
- E. Enforcement to Immigrant Law – S.B. 4 – Commissioner Vandenberg** – shared concerns about the senate bill and the board making any recommendations concerning immigrants.
- F. Suggested general policy position – Commissioner Pedro Villalobos** – Recommendation created and voted on. Commissioner Alba Sereno motioned to accepted, Commissioner Karen Crawford seconded the motion. Approved on a 9-0 vote with Commissioners Nicole Merritt, and Rosalia Austin absent.

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

- A. U-Visa Recommendation** – Commissioner Karen Crawford presented recommendation
  - Commissioner Karen Crawford motioned to accept the minutes.
  - Commissioner Glen Rosales seconded the motion.
  - Approved on a 7-1 vote with Commissioner David Vandenberg against and Commissioners Krystal Gomez, Nicole Merritt, and Rosalia Austin absent

## **6. STANDING ITEMS**

- A. Welcoming City Workshops**
  - **Develop mission statement for work groups** – Tabled
  - **Public Safety/Commissioner Karen Crawford: shared concerns with the APD U Visa certifications Statue of Limitations.** Same as item 5A.
  - **Chair, Angela-Jo Touza Medina recommended that board members focus on three of the five topics: Public Safety, Children in Schools, and Civic Engagement. Board members to recommit** – Work group’s new assignments: 1. Public Safety: Pedro, Karen, and David 2. Education: Piper, Krystal, Glenn, and Elisse 3. Community Engagement: Nicole and Alba
- B. Commission Election Response/Prep for new Presidential Administration Update:**
  - **New initiative to conduct board meetings in the 10 districts of Austin and encouraging residents to attend – 2017 meeting schedule, logistics and content.** – February meeting to be held at Northwest Recreational Center. March meeting at Berkley United Methodist Church. April meeting at Dove Springs Recreational Center. May meeting at Montopolis Recreational Center and September Meeting at Councilman Satellite office on W. Anderson Ln.
- C. Cities United for Immigration Action Update:** Tabled
- D. Joint Inclusion Commission Update:**
  - Included in item 4A.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Commissioner Alba Sereno shared information on Anti-Racism and Systemic Taskforce out of the Mayor’s office meets 1-2 times a month. The five workgroups will submit recommendations to city council by March.
- The Equity Officer having a meeting on Friday, January 20 at 12pm.

- The Office of Stainability will conduct an Environmental Analysis on food access in Austin and Travis County.
- Chair, Angela-Jo Touza-Medina will step down at the end of this term. Last day is February 28, 2017.
- Code Next to present to city council

#### **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

- Texas Legislative update
- Facebook

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

- Commissioner Piper Nelson motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:52 pm
- Commissioner Krystal Gomez seconded
- Approved on a 9-0 vote

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