



## Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Regular Monthly Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 2017 6:30 PM  
Lorraine “Grandma” Camacho Activity Center  
34 Robert Martinez Jr. Street., Austin, Texas, 78702

### *Approved Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes*

*The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 8, 2017 at Lorraine “Grandma” Camacho Activity Center, 34 Robert Martinez Jr. Street, Austin, Texas.*

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

Karen Crawford, <i>Chair</i>	Walid Kobrosly
Pedro Villalobos, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Elisse Jean-Pierre
Samuel Adair	Nicole Merritt
Krystal Gomez	Glenn Rosales

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

Rosalia Austin  
Aditya Rastogi

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

Connie H. Gonzales, Staff Liaison/APH

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair, Karen Crawford called the Board Meeting to order at 6:36 pm
- 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION** – Omar Kadir of North Austin Muslim Community Center shared information on an “Open House” event on May 21, 2017 @ 2:30pm.
- 3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April, 2017
  - Vice Chair, Pedro Villalobos motioned to accept the minutes.
  - Commissioner Glenn Rosales seconded the motion.
  - Approved on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Rosalia Austin and Aditya Rastogi absent.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
  - A. Briefing and discussion on “Affordable housing availability to refugees including those with disabilities living in Austin by Director of SARA (Syrian American Refugee Aid), Bassam Marawi**
    - Assist Syrian Refugees. There are currently assisting 44 families.

- They provide rental assistance among other services - 85% of budget.
- Requested that city look into rental subsidies
- Commissioners Elisse and Walid will draft a recommendation

**B. Briefing on Equity Action Team meeting - Tabled**

**C. Legislative update – Matt Simpson of ACLU**

- SB4
- HB582 – Non-Citizens and DL
- Amendments- Dreamers Act and UT
- City of Austin lawsuit

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

**A. Municipal ID's**

- Vice Chair, Pedro Villalobos presented the recommendation
- Vice Chair, Pedro Villalobos motioned to accept.
- Commissioner Nicole Merritt seconded the motion.
- Approved on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Rosalia Austin and Aditya Rastogi absent.

**B. Meeting with new Field Office Director for USCIS**

- Gary Garman to attend ISNA meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10am
- Vice Chair, Pedro Villalobos motioned for Commissioner Krystal Gomez to attend as representative of CoIA.
- Chair, Karen Crawford seconded the motion.
- Approved on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Rosalia Austin and Aditya Rastogi absent.

**6. STANDING ITEMS**

**A. Welcoming City Workshops**

- **Develop mission statement for work groups:** Tabled
- **Public Safety/Commissioner Karen Crawford:** None
- **Children in Schools:** Tabled
- **Civic Engagement:**
  - Commissioner Nicole Merritt promoting community involvement through CoIA Facebook and webpage.
- **Legislative updates:**
  - See above presentation by Matt Simpson

**B. Cities United for Immigration Action Update:** None

**C. Joint Inclusion Commission Update:** Tabled

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

- Draft a recommendation: “Cite and Release”
- Draft a recommendation for more “Affordable Housing”

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

- Chair, Karen Crawford motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:23 pm
- Commissioner Krystal Gomez seconded
- Approved on an 8-0 vote with Commissioners Rosalia Austin and Aditya Rastogi absent.

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 2 days before the meeting date.

Please contact Stephanie Hayden at the Austin Public Health, at (512) 972-5017 or email: [stephanie.hayden@austintexas.gov](mailto:stephanie.hayden@austintexas.gov), for additional information. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.