



Commission on Immigrant Affairs

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019 6:30 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers
301 W. 2nd St., Austin, Texas 78701

Approved Monthly Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

Karen Crawford
Krystal Gomez
Adrian De La Rosa

Montserrat Garibay
Kate Goldfinch
Walid Kobrosly

Rennison Lalgee
Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez
Glenn Rosales

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Samuel Adair
Nicole Merritt

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 6:33 pm
2. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**
 - Daniela Nunez from Public Safety Commission presented on 2 priority areas in District 4 through public safety effort.
 1. Relationship violence and crisis intervention programs
 2. Additional funding for EMS community health paramedics
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – July 2019
 - Correction on item 7 – Capitol instead of capital. Glenn Rosales moves to approve meeting minutes with corrections and Rennison Lalgee seconds.
4. **OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
 - Nothing pending
5. **NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**
 - Rebecca Lightsey, American Gateways – presentation about services rendered
 1. Mission: To champion the dignity and human rights of immigrants, refugees and survivors of persecution, torture, conflict and human trafficking through exceptional immigration legal services at no or low cost, education and advocacy.
 2. Works in community and then 3 detention centers in Texas. Legal consultations with individuals, pro se, clinics with pro-bono attorneys in citizenship and DACA cases, and full legal representation.
 3. Has a contract with the City of Austin to provide legal services: screenings, consultations, and provide full representations. Uses model under Safe Cities, Universal Representation (randomly selection of cases). Focused outreach in the Asian Community. Currently have 100 open cases under this contract.
 4. Request to commissioners – Volunteer opportunities for lawyers and non-lawyers, interpreters, administrative work, additional funding form The City, and support for Freedom Cities
 - Vote to send a commissioner to the Cities for Action Fall National Convening
 1. Commissioner 1 and Commissioner 2 (names not stated in the audio recording) moves to

approve and seconds Karen Crawford's attendance in the Cities for Action Fall National Convening.

- City Manager's Budget – review what has been released; discuss budget retreat; vote on sending a commissioner to testify to City Council regarding the budget
 1. Received 3 out of the 6 proposed budget asks: Immigrants Affairs Employee in the Equity Office, Monthly Citizenship Clinics, and increase Immigrant Legal Services.
 2. Testify and provide testimony on August 22nd and August 28th. Final budget will be voted on September 10th.
 3. State legislature approved budget caps which allows for more money to be spent this year and potential less money to be spent the following years.
 4. Business Process Specialist (Reclassification would increase salary. Move to suspend Robert's Rules of Order and open floor to discuss. The commission came to an agreement on the terms. Glen motioned to approve the recommendation and Walid seconded. All in favor.
 5. Proposed to send Krystal Gomez to testify at City Council. Kate seconded it. All in favor.
- Discuss goals for first community forum
 1. Tabled for the next meeting.
- Discuss September meeting: vote on changing meeting date/location, discuss Strategic Planning ideas
 1. Motioned to move September meeting to September 9 as September 2 (first Monday) is on Labor Day. Joseph seconded.

6. STANDING ITEMS: Discussion and Possible Action

- Discussion of upcoming plans
 1. Affordable Housing: Walid and Joseph – no updates
 2. Children in Schools: Montserrat, Krystal and Glenn – no updates
 3. Civic Engagement: Nicole, Krystal and Sam – debrief on US Census – no updates
 4. Citizenship Clinics: Montserrat – next citizenship clinic on August 24
 5. Budget: Nicole, Krystal, Glenn, and Karen – no updates
 6. Immigrant Heritage Festival: Sam, Nicole, and Krystal – no updates
 7. Legislative updates – Krystal – no updates
 8. Public Safety – Karen, Montserrat, Kate, and Krystal – no updates
 9. Welcoming City Office – Krystal, Adrian, Nicole, and Karen – report unavailable. No updates
 10. Workforce and Economic Development – Nicole and Joseph
- Cities United for Immigration Action Update – Karen – the public charge of inadmissibility
- Joint Inclusion Committee Update – Karen – mostly focusing on budget. There's an equity mini grant and the committee will review the applications.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- no announcements

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- no future agenda items

9. Tasks for next meeting

- Commissioners to speak to city council representative about budget concerns;

- Montserrat will speak to Council Member Casar's office representative
- Karen will talk to budget office about housing recommendation
- Krystal will send budget recommendation on business process specialist
- Karen will gather information about strategic planning
- Follow up with police chief and see what Austin is doing with ICE raids

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

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