



COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Monday, October 5, 2020 6:30 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

Meeting Minutes

Board Members in Attendance:

<i>Karen Crawford, Chair</i>	<i>Montserrat Garibay</i>	<i>Nicole Merritt</i>
<i>Juan Vences-Benitez</i>	<i>Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez</i>	<i>Glen Rosales</i>
<i>Adrian De La Rosa</i>	<i>Rennison Lalgee</i>	

Board Members not in Attendance:

<i>Krystal Gomez, Vice Chair</i>	<i>Banafsheh Madaninejad</i>	<i>Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch</i>
<i>Sam Adair</i>		

Staff in Attendance:

Sinying Chan, Staff Liaison & Health Equity Unit Program Coordinator/APH
Connie H. Gonzales, Staff Liaison & Health Equity Unit Program Coordinator/APH
Estephania Olivares, Health Equity Unit Supervisor/APH

CALL TO ORDER at 6:40 pm

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- No minutes available for review
- Table to next month

2. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

A. APD Office of Community Liaison presentation on their work – Sadot Azzua – Immigrant and Refugee Community Liaison; Mei Fung – Asian Liaison; and Veronica Saldate – Crime Prevention, NNO, and Seniors Liaison

- Presentation on their work and what they have done amid COVID-19
- 4 regions and 9 liaisons with different focus such as immigrant and refugee, Asian, crime prevention, Black, and LGBTQ etc.
- Main outreach tasks include safety fairs, town hall, community engagement meetings, and community presentations with presence of APD police officers
- Funding for programs of the APD Community Liaison Office is not in city budget and is raised by fundraiser – asking for recommendations on how to apply grants and funding



- Operation Blue Santa, for example, is one of the many signature and at-risk programs of the APD Community Liaison Office due to lack of fundraisers during COVID-19
- Mike Sheffield, manager of APD Community Liaison Office, spoke about current situation of funding and would be the point person for further discussion

B. Vote on meeting schedule for January 2021 – December 2021

- Rennison moved to keep meeting on first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm
- Adrian seconded
- Discussed about the difficulty of room reservation and holidays/election on first Mondays of certain months
- Rennison amended motion to second Monday
- Adrian seconded
- All in favor (8-0)

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on budget recommendations for FY21, information on next steps for FY22

- Most of our budget items were not funded. Increase of 1.1 million to Austin Public Health (APH) for mental health services, family violence prevention and immigrant legal services
- Next Joint Inclusion Committee budget retreat is tentatively moved to October 24th

B. Equity Office updates:

- Welcoming America: Welcoming Week
 - Variety events by Austin Refugee Round Table, Asian American Resource Center, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, and Equity Office
- New American Economy / Walmart Foundation grant
 - Grant is received from Walmart Foundation for a multicity research project for future disaster preparedness
- Enhanced library cards
 - Will contain photo and can be used as ID
 - Continued discussion with library director and legal
- Research with LBJ School
 - Report on baseline view of where Austin stands to establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs and become an official welcoming city
- Work of Rocio Villalobos, the Immigrant Affairs officer in the Equity Office
 - Continues to work on COVID-19 response; in process of setting up newsletter
 - Free membership from Welcoming America Network for 2021
 - Enrolled the City as part of the Cities for Citizenship Network; possible planning of virtual citizenship plan

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Brie L. Franco from Intergovernmental Relations Office – 87th State Legislative Agenda
- 2021 goals



ANNOUNCEMENT

- Connie Gonzales will no longer be the staff liaison
- Sinying Chan would be the new staff liaison

ADJOURNMENT

- Nicole moved to adjourn at 7:47 pm
- Montserrat seconded
- All in favor (8-0)

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