



## COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021 6:30 PM

### Meeting Minutes

#### Board Members in Attendance:

*Krystal Gomez, Chair*

*Karen Crawford*

*Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez*

*Nicole Merritt, Vice-Chair*

*Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch*

*Juan Vences-Benitez*

*Sara Becker*

#### Board Members not in Attendance:

*Adrian De La Rosa*

*Rennison Lalgee*

*Glenn Rosales*

#### Staff in Attendance:

Sinying Chan, Staff Liaison & Health Equity Unit Program Coordinator/Austin Public Health

### CALL TO ORDER

#### 1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2021; November 1, 2021

- Nicole moved to approve; Kate seconded; all in favor

#### 2. NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

##### A. Update from Rocio Villalobos on her work with the Equity Office

- Attended the National Immigrant Integration Conference, one of the focuses is the push of naturalization; launching a campaign hoping to get two million people naturalized during 2022
- Final naturalization ceremony in Austin is on 12/17/21; should be at the central library; voter registration, COVID vaccination, and library registration will be available as usual
- City of San Marcos launched their enhanced library card program last week; they followed a model that is similar to the City of San Antonio; along with Austin Public Library, Rocio was able to include representatives from City of Austin Park and Recreation Department and Austin Energy to strategize for the enhanced library card in Austin; will help build a toolkit for other cities to follow; library card fees could be a



challenge for people to get a library card/enhanced library card, as well as proof of residence; it has not been decided if all citizens who apply will get an enhanced library card or having the options of regular library card and enhanced library card

- There are 12 recipients for the immigrant integration grant fund; all will go over the undoing racism training
- The nation report from New American Economy was released last August; the Austin specific report will come out in January

**B. Jordan McGee from Capital Metro and the Housing & Planning Department will present an overview and answer questions about the equitable transit-oriented development project to plan for equitable outcomes for area residents of all incomes and backgrounds along Project Connect corridors**

- Presented an overview and answered questions about the equitable transit-oriented development project to plan for equitable outcomes for all residents of all incomes and backgrounds along Project Connect corridors

**C. Discussion and possible action on budget recommendation ideas for the Joint Inclusion Committee**

- Still trying to meet with the budget office to get the action plan for the budget outreach forums
- Will likely have 3-4 budget forums across commissions that are based on topics; and separately commissions can have their own budget forum; unsure about timing
- The top topics are safe and affordable housing including homelessness issues; healthcare including pandemic response and mental health; language access including American Sign Language; immigrant legal services; and public safety
- Information session with the budget office was postponed due to the Open Meetings Act
- Budget working group needs to be formed again for each commission

**D. Formation of budget working group; possible action to finalize working groups based on the Immigrant Integration report recommendations**

- Karen moved to create a budget working group; Nicole seconded; all in favor
- Karen, Nicole, Krystal, and Juan will be the budget working group members
- Karen moved the budget working group members be authorized by this commission to speak on behalf of the commission at the 1/29 budget meeting; Nicole seconded; all in favor
- Nicole appointed Kate and Sara to be backups to attend the budget meeting; Joseph seconded; all in favor
- Based on the Immigrant Integration report recommendations, Joseph would like to join the access resources and community hubs working group; Juan would like to join the workforce development and entrepreneur resources working group
- Nicole moved to approve the working groups as listed on the November meeting minutes with the addition of Juan and Joseph; Kate seconded; all in favor

**3. OLD BUSINESS**



**A. Budget updates**

- Covered in New Business

**B. Report back from ISNA and the RST quarterly consultations**

- No updates

**C. Joint Inclusion Committee meeting update – Karen**

- APD Chief Joseph Chacon will present at the next meeting

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Budget education/meeting in immigrant community; could get help from Rocio to select the community as she had meetings in the immigrant communities prior
- Informing/educating individuals on civil rights, budgets, etc. at DACA/naturalization clinics
- Attending DACA clinic/naturalization ceremony

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Update on commissioners can join the meetings in person or virtually starting 2/28/22; only one commissioner and the staff liaison need to present in person

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Karen moved to adjourn; Nicole seconded; all in favor



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