



**Commission on Immigrant Affairs
Regular Meeting Minutes
06, 09, 2022**

The Commission on Immigrant Affairs convened in a Regular meeting on 06, 09, 2022, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

Chair Juan called the Commission on Immigrant Affairs Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:

Juan Vences-Benitez, Chair

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Krystal Gomez, Vice-Chair

Adrian De La Rosa

Nicole Merritt

Karen Crawford

Aditi Joshi

Joseph Ramirez-Hernandez

Rennison Lalgee

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs Regular Meeting on August 1st, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting of 08/01/2022 were approved on Nicole's motion, Karen second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Krystal, Sara, and Kate were absent.

2. Approve the minutes of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs Special Called Meeting on August 10th, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting of 08/10/2022 were approved on Nicole's motion, Aditi second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Krystal, Sara, and Kate were absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discussion of COA FY 2022-2023 Budget and Updates on Commission on Immigrant Affairs Budget Recommendations
 - a. Enhanced Library Card was funded. Juan will connect with Councilmember Fuentes' Office for next steps. There is a 120 day directive to get the program started. Juan will report back with more information.

- b. There is one-time funding for a bilingual summer camp for 2022-2023. Councilmember Tovo asked for the Commission to play a role in directing this program.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- 4. Discussion of FY 2022-2023 Goals for the Commission on Immigrant Affairs
 - a. Will form working groups around each of the priority areas previously identified and discussed to create recommendations.
 - i. Leadership and Governance – Krystal, Juan, Adrian, Aditi
 - ii. Civic Engagement and Inclusivity – Juan, Adrian, Krystal, Karen
 - iii. Economic Prosperity and Job Growth – Aditi, Juan, Nicole
 - iv. Livability – Juan
 - v. Community Resilience – Juan, Krystal, Joseph, Aditi
 - b. Juan will begin some email threads for the working groups to begin planning.
- 5. Approve the creation of FY 2022-2023 Working Groups
The motion to create working groups for FY 2022-2023 was approved on Aditi's motion, Nicole second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Krystal, Sara, and Kate were absent.
- 6. Discussion of Joint Inclusion Committee and possible action on COIA representative
 - a. Will wait to discuss the representative for now.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

- 7. Staff briefing from Jeremy Garza with the Equity Office regarding funding for Quality of Life study for the Commission on Immigrant Affairs
 - a. They asked for every member of the JIC to get a study on rotation. They only received Quality of Life Studies for the five Commissions that have never had one. The most recent study cost \$250,000, so that was the funding amount given to the five Commissions.
 - b. Each Quality of Life Study is radically different from each other, there is no easy formula to follow. The only study the Equity Office was involved with was with the LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission and it took two years to complete.
 - c. The Equity Office is deciding what order to do these studies. We are hoping to start the process early to have as much done before the end of FY23, because there is always a fear that they could lose the money. First step is defining the scope and vision for the study, next step is contacting contractors to create the study.
 - d. They are holding a meeting this Saturday. It will include Commissions who have had studies discussing their experience. The meeting is also to support intersectionality and comradery amongst the Commissions.

- e. When creating the scopes for these studies, focus on advocacy so that the study can be created to get the data needed to accomplish your goals. The Equity Office took this on to make sure it was Community-focused studies that engaged the community.
- f. Jeremy will be sending all of the past studies and information he has to the Commission to see what they accomplished, what they were unable to, and how to shape our study.
- g. Concerns are how do we get as many community members involved, and whether we can monitor the contractors to ensure they are appropriately engaging the community.
- h. We may be able to use the Welcoming Cities study as a model, and this study may help us become a Welcoming City. Rocio can set up a meeting with them to see what they are looking for.
- i. First step for this Commission is to attend the September 10th meeting.
- j. Between the Welcoming Cities study, and the study by Dr. Wasem, we should look to see what gaps they have to make sure our studies address them.
- k. The Commission will be involved in the hiring process for the contractor for the study. Jeremy is available to attend any meetings and assist with the creation of these studies.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

U-Visa Discussion, starting with Travis County Sheriff, also reach out to APD – Juan, Krystal

Quality of Life Study – Juan, Krystal

Briefings with Rocio from the Equity Office – Juan, Krystal

Chair Juan adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the 10/03/2022 meeting on Karen's motion, Joseph's second on a 7-0 vote.