



COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023

The COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS convened in a REGULAR meeting on MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023, at Austin City Hall, 301 W.2nd St, in Austin, Texas.

Chair MIRIAM DORANTES called the COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS regular meeting to order at 6:56 p.m.

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:
Chair Miriam Dorantes

Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:
Vice Chair Melissa Ortega *Rennison Lalgee*
Adrian De La Rosa *Joseph E. Ramirez-Hernandez*
Fang Fang *Adnan Suleiman*

Board Members/Commissioners not in Attendance:
Aditi Joshi

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Bilingual Summer Program – Informed Commission on this important community initiative, Academia Cuauthli. They request a letter of recommendation from the commission for their summer programs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the Minutes of the Commission's Regular Meeting on October 3rd, 2022

Tabled to next month at the request of the chair.

2. Approve the minutes of the Commission's Regular Meeting on December 5th, 2022

Tabled to next month at the request of the chair.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

3. Presentation by Co-Executive Director, Rebecca Lightsey of American Gateways

The presentation was made by: Rebecca Lightsey – Update Commission on their work during their partnership with the City of Austin and wants Commission to encourage the City to move forward with funding.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

4. Discussion and action on officer elections; appointing a new chair and vice chair of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs.

The motion to *elect Miriam Dorantes as Chair* was approved on COMMISSIONER MIRIAM DORANTES' motion, COMMISSIONER RENNISON LALGEE's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Absent/Off the Dais: Aditi Joshi)

The motion to *elect Melissa Ortega as Vice-Chair* was approved on COMMISSIONER MIRIAM DORANTES' motion, COMMISSIONER RENNISON LALGEE's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Absent/Off the Dais: Aditi Joshi)

5. Discussion and possible action on appointing a new primary and alternate representative for the commission to the Joint Inclusion Committee.

The motion to *elect Commissioner Miriam Dorantes as the primary representative and Melissa Ortega as alternate representative to the Joint Inclusion Committee* was approved on COMMISSIONER MIRIAM DORANTES' motion, COMMISSIONER RENNISON LALGEE's second on a 7 – 0 vote. (Off the Dais/Absent: Commissioners Aditi Joshi)

6. Discussion and possible action on discussing forming a budgetary committee for the Commission.

The motion to *approve tabling the discussion on forming a budgetary committee* was approved on COMMISSIONER RENNISON LALGEE's motion, COMMISSIONER ADNAN SULEIMAN's second on a 7 -0 vote. (Absent/Off the Dais: Aditi Joshi)

7. Report of updates and information by Jeremy Garza, Business Process Consultant from the Equity Office.

Functions and History of the Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – Meets on the 4th wed of every month at 3p and representatives can attend virtually. The Equity Office came about from community organizing due to Austin being declared the best place to live in the country while also being the most economically segregated city in the country. Equity office was asked to be part of the commission work – there was very little coalition building at that time and the JIC was founded to help strengthen relationships and encourage the commissions to work and organize together.

Roles for JIC Representatives – Primary Representative are responsible for attending all JIC meetings (virtually); Secondary Representative – does not always have to attend, but at least 1 of them have to be present. Both Representatives are encouraged to work together and figure out how many months each person can cover and communicate with each other. There is voting that takes place and reps need to turn on cameras for voting and role call, but can only make 1 vote between the 2 reps.

Budgetary recommendations due in March 2024. CoIA has had a budget workgroup in the past and the commission's city website has all the records with every recommendation the commission has ever passed. It's encouraged the commission establish a budget workgroup authorized to work with other commissions on budgetary related items.

A Quality-of-Life Study can help CoIA develop goals and make recommendations to city council based on hard data. Commissioners can be involved as advisors from beginning to end to help with this effort. This is an opportunity but doesn't have to happen. Potentially up to \$250,000 is available to hire a consultant to conduct the study. Don't have to feel bad if Board says no to this due to capacity, because it is quite a long process.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. Call for items from Commissioners:

Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes of the Commissions regular meetings on October 3rd, 2022, and December 5th, 2022, and June 5th, 2023.

Discussion and possible action on establishing a budget workgroup.

Discussion and possible action on conducting a Quality-of-Life Study for immigrant and refugee communities in Austin.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9. CHAIR MIRIAM DORANTES adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m. without objection.**

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The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access, and hybrid virtual meeting attendance is now available. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice of at least two days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Austin Public Health Program Coordinator, Gunjen Mittal, at (512) 972-6104, or email at gunjen.mittal@austintexas.gov, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

The minutes from the meeting of 6/5/2023 were approved at the 8/7/2023 meeting on COMMISSIONER RENNISON LALGEE's motion, COMMISSIONER ADRIAN DE LA ROSA's second on a 7-0 vote.