

# IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 3, 2015 Market Station Conference Room 500 Market Station 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of Minutes: September 3, 2013 and September 1, 2015
- 4. New Business:
  - a. Gerard's House Nuestra Jornada
  - b. Discussion regarding Resolution 1999-6
  - c. Discussion regarding report being generated to present to City Council
- 5. Old Business:
  - a. Interim Police Chief follow-up discussion regarding Driver's Licenses
  - b. DAPA updates
  - c. Update on Wage Theft
  - d. Update on Bullying Resolution City/SFPS
- 6. Comments from the Chair and Commissioners
- 7. Report from Staff
  - a. White House "Welcoming Communities" Initiative
- 8. Matters from the Floor
- 9. Adjournment

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Fela 9th

# Immigration Committee Railyard City Offices, Santa Fe, NM November 3, 2015 4:42 p.m. to 6:42 p.m.

1. The Immigration Committee was called to order at 4:42 by Chair Alejandra Seluja. A quorum was established at 4:48 p.m.

# Roll Call:

# **Present**

Alejandra Seluja, Chair Maria Cristina Lopez Marcela Diaz Javier Rios Jewel Cabeza de Vaca Cara Esquibel Amparo Guerrero Elizabeth Hemmer

#### Not Excused

Cecilia Tadfor

#### Staff Present

Chris Sanchez, City of Santa Fe

# **Others Present**

Linda Vigil, Stenographer
Katrina Kohler Nuestra Jornada
Susan Hayre, Nuestra Jornada
Roxana Melendez, Nuestra Jornada
MariaJose Ugalde Alcazar
Mabel Arellanes
Elsa Serrano Nevarez
Adonis Miramontes Serrano
Uriel Garcia
Lida Alichani

Matt Ross, Public Information Officer City of Santa Fe Mildred (Last name not given), Senior at Monte del Sol in the Mentorship program with Ms. Diaz Mayela Estrada, Senior at Monte del Sol in the Mentorship program with Ms. Diaz

# 2. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hemmer would like to add two items to the agenda under New Business add upcoming Committee Meeting Dates and discuss a letter to the Archbishop of Santa Fe.

Ms. Diaz would like to remove under Old Business the items Update on Wage Theft and the update on the Bullying Resolution. Also remove Interim Police Chief but allow discussion the update of Driver's Licenses. There was media present at the meeting that were under the impression that the Interim Police Chief would be in attendance.

Ms. Diaz moved to approve the agenda as amended, with a second from Ms. Guerrero the motion passed by voice vote.

# 3. Approval of Minutes of September 3, 2013 and September 1, 2015

Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2013 as presented, with a second from Ms. Guerrero the motion passed by voice vote. This set of minutes was not approved previously and was brought to Mr. Sanchez' attention by the City Clerk.

Ms. Lopez moved to approve the minutes of September 1, 2015 as presented, with a second from Ms. Guerrero which passed by voice vote.

# 4. New Business:

# a. Gerard's House-Nuestra Jornada

Ms. Kohler described the program for grieving youth since 1997. It is involved in the schools and offers the Spanish speaking youth a service for different types of grieving they experience whether it is a death or missing family that are out of the country. The schools involved are Ortiz Elementary and Middle School, Cesar Chavez Elementary and Middle School and DeVargas Elementary and Middle School. The youth can participate in making Art and other activities. The program has evolved from the grief counseling to assistance with other matters.

Ms. Melendez discussed the way the program has taken off with outreach not only in the schools but with businesses and the community.

Ms. Esquibel asked how the program works with the schools and the schedules. Ms. Melendez explained it is during the school day either during lunch or classes. However, the times they meet is changed so that the students don't miss the same class every time. They work with the school counselors. They would like to extend it to the High Schools as well.

Ms. Kohler thanked Mr. Sanchez, Ms. Esquibel and Ms. Guerrero for their help and work with the program as well.

Ms. Hayer stated there will be parent meeting at one of the potential new schools. They will be letting the community get to know what the program is for and how it works. It has had great feedback so far.

Ms. Hayer discussed how engaged the kids are and how they appreciate the program. Ms. Seluja encouraged the Committee to work together and collaborate on issues.

Ms. Seluja asked the guests in the audience to introduce themselves and briefly state why they are here in attendance tonight. The next meeting there will be a portion in the agenda for Community Comments.

All members of the Public made their introductions.

Ms. Arellanes discussed her experience growing up in Santa Fe and being undocumented. Ms. Arellanes brought forth some information about an incident that she believes has violated the Immigration Resolution that has been in place in the City of Santa Fe for over a decade.

Ms. Arellanes read a statement from Jorge Serrano, her cousin who was detained by Santa Fe Police and is currently held at the Torrance County Detention Center. Mr. Serrano depicted every account in detail of what occurred that evening in the statement. Ms. Arellanes explained the clear evidence that the policy was violated. A copy of the Federal Complaint filed in Federal Court (See Exhibit B-1) that describes the arrest by ICE.

Mr. Miramontes-Serrano was asked to describe his accounting of the events of that evening he was in the vehicle at the time of the arrest. Ms. Arellanes formally asked the Committee to file a complaint on Mr. Serrano's behalf on the violations that occurred. Ms. Arellanes presented a copy of the current policy on Immigration (See Exhibit B-2) and a copy of the Press Release from September 24, 2015 reporting the arrest (See Exhibit B-3).

Ms. Seluja allowed Committee members to ask any questions about the incident. Ms. Esquibel asked if the Officer was on duty at the time. Ms. Arellanes stated he was already looking for Mr. Serrano and had reported it to ICE when he saw Mr. Serrano at the Zozobra festivities as stated in the Federal Complaint.

Ms. Diaz asked Mr. Miramontes-Serrano if Mr. Serrano was the driver of the vehicle and if he was issued any tickets or citations. He was not. There was no reason to stop the vehicle. Mr. Miramontes-Serrano stated he was questioned as well by another officer and was asked about his status and his record. Mr. Miramontes-Serrano voluntarily allowed them to search the vehicle.

There was a brief discussion about the Press Release and how it was handled.

Ms. Seluja thanked Ms. Arellanes and her family for attending the meeting and answering the Committees questions. Ms. Seluja and Ms. Lopez will work with Mr. Sanchez on the complaint.

# b. Discussion regarding Resolution -1999-6

Ms. Seluja presented the Resolution Declaring a Policy of Non-Discrimination of the Basis of a Person's National Origin and Appointing an Immigration Task Force that was passed and approved in 1999.

A discussion was held about the Santa Fe City Police Liaison who has historically always been present at meetings. There is also a policy within the Police Department that has been worked on several times that should be enforced.

Ms. Guerrero discussed the fact that the Interim Police Chief was present at the last Committee meeting and stated that these matters would be part of the Police Department trainings. This event occurred a few days after that meeting.

Ms. Hemmer would like to see there was some accountability on the undercover officer who asked Mr. Miramontes-Serrano about his status.

Mr. Rios discussed the issue of there not being any prior or pending charges on Mr. Serrano to motivate a stop or a search of him.

Ms. Diaz discussed the biased based police policy that is also in place.

It was decided to bring the questions up about the probable cause there was to stop Mr. Serrano, the issue of force used to make the stop and the fact there was no arrest warrant or booking record, instead Mr. Serrano was held for ICE. The issues of the statements in the Press Release, those statements were not appropriate.

Ms. Lopez moved to gather all questions and information presented by Ms. Arellanes and her complaint to be presented to the Santa Fe Police Department and the Mayor, with a second from Ms. Hemmer which carried by voice vote.

A brief discussion was held about the complaint process.

Ms. Diaz asked Mr. Ross about the handling of the Press Releases from the Police Department. Mr. Ross explained that as of this week all Press Releases will be handled by his office directly.

Mr. Ross stated that there was a meeting to be scheduled with Ms. Arellanes and the Mayor, it will be rescheduled.

Mr. Rios asked after the complaint is processed what the recourse is. Ms. Diaz explained that the Policy and the Resolution were not meant to create punishments or discipline. The Police Department will handle that internally. However, the Policy will need to be upheld.

# c. Discussion regarding report being generated to present to City Council

This item will be tabled until the next meeting. Ms. Seluja and Ms. Lopez will generate a report to be presented to City Council about all Action Items for the year. They will meet to work on the report.

# d. Meeting Dates and Times

A brief discussion was held and it was decided to hold the meetings at the regular time and dates. The first Tuesday of the month from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

# e. Writing a letter to Archbishop of Santa Fe

Ms. Hemmer would like to write a letter to the new Archbishop Lester to invite him to a meeting. He seems very interested in Immigrant issues. Ms. Seluja would also like to present the report to him once it is complete.

# 5. Old Business:

# a. Update on Drivers Licenses

Ms. Diaz state that the new Speaker of the House Paul Ryan stated there will not be new Immigration Reform.

A discussion was held about the upcoming Legislative Session and the work done last session. Ms. Diaz state the Congressional help last year was helpful. Ms. Seluja encouraged the Committee to help in any way possible.

# b. DAPA Updates

Ms. Diaz updated the Committee on the 26 state lawsuit. The  $5^{th}$  circuit hasn't issued the opinion as of yet, therefore it cannot be get appealed in the US Supreme Court.

# 6. Comments from the Chair or Commissioners

Ms. Seluja thanked Ms. Ugalde Alcazar for attending the meeting and for her interest in possibly joining the Committee.

Ms. Diaz announced on her weekly radio show that Espanola that they are now a Sanctuary City.

Ms. Lopez announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> event for Somos Pun Pueblos Unido's 20 year anniversary to see a film series at CCA next Saturday (See Exhibit D).

Ms. Esquibel announced the concert at the Nye Early Childhood Center (former Agua Fria School) on Saturday. Mr. Sanchez will email the information.

Ms. Kohler wanted to pass along her heartfelt regards to Mabel and the family of Mr. Serrano.

# 7. Report from Staff

# a. White House "Welcoming Communities" Initiative

Mr. Sanchez briefly updated the Committee on the Bullying Project, there will be a meeting tomorrow regarding the budgeting and creation on the Joint resolution with SFPS.

Mr. Sanchez reported that Mayor Gonzales signed the Committee up to be involved with the Welcoming Communities. The initiative has structured framework about important issues. On October 14, 2015 Santa Fe was signed on the list of Cities.

Mr. Sanchez explained the City will be able to bring them all together and discuss issues as a whole with national highlight efforts.

Ms. Seluja reported that she met with the USCIS Director in Albuquerque last month. They are looking for new ways to get immigrants to become citizens.

# 8. Matters from the Floor

There were no matters from the floor.

# 9. Adjournment

There being no further business the Immigration Committee adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

# **Signatures**

Alejandra Seluja, Chair

Linda Vigil, Stenograp