



Agenda DATE 3/31/14 TIME 3:00

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**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016
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: March 1st, 2016
4. Community Comments
5. New Business/Action Items:
 - a. Introduction of newly appointed Committee Member – Susan Hayre
 - b. Discussion and Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - c. Moment of Silence – In Memory of Cara Esquibel
6. Old Business:
 - a. Educational Subcommittee – Follow-up meeting with Mr. Miguel Acosta
 - b. Follow-up on letter to SFPS Police Chief
 - c. Follow-up with Chair Seluja regarding language issues and translating important forms in Spanish
 - d. Follow-up to the report to City Council about all action items for the year
 - e. Follow-up discussion regarding Social Media (Facebook) for the Immigration Committee
7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members
8. Report from Staff
9. Adjournment

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's office at (505) 955-6521 five (5) working days prior to the meeting date.

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9. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.	4
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Immigration Committee
500 Market Street, Railyard Offices
Santa Fe, NM
March 1, 2016
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

1. The Immigration Committee was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Chair Alejandra Seluja. A quorum was established by roll call.

ROLL CALL

Present

Alejandra Seluja, Chair
Maria Cristina Lopez, Vice Chair
Amparo Guerrero
MariaJose Ugalde-Alcazar
Susan Hayre
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca
Javier Rios (*via telephone*)

Excused

Elizabeth Hemmer

Others Present

Chris Sanchez, City of Santa Fe
Linda Vigil, Stenographer
Julia Valdez, Santa Fe County

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Lopez would like to have the Moment of Silence for Ms. Cara Esquibel moved to the first item under New Business.

Ms. Lopez moved to approve the agenda as amended with a second by Ms. Guerrero which passed by voice vote

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2016

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:

Ms. Diaz would like to clarify the discussion on the increase of the minimum wage \$10.91 within the City and tip wage is up to \$3.27 in the County.

Mr. Sanchez would like to clarify the discussion regarding the meetings with the Chair and the Chief of Police was a collective decision. Mr. Sanchez would also like to clarify that for the Staff report he had nothing to report.

Ms. Lopez moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2016 as amended with a second by Ms. Guerrero which passed by voice vote.

4. COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Ms. Diaz announced at this time she is not a member. There was a mix up with the letter of intent for her position, her position is still available to her and it should get worked out soon. As a member of the community Ms. Diaz made some announcements.

Ms. Diaz announced on May 1, 2016 the Workers Center will hold an event at Somos Un Pueblo Unido.

Ms. Diaz announced the conversation even with Dr. Rael-Galvez will be held tomorrow at 5:00p.m. on cultural mapping. There will be food and it is open to the community.

Ms. Diaz discussed the recent injunction regarding the NM Taxation and Revenue Department withholding tax refunds from immigrants. A letter will be sent out for the new tax year they would like to get that stopped. Chair Seluja stated the letter states they need to produce certain records that they aren't asking for from other tax payers.

Ms. Guerrero asked about the mix up with Ms. Diaz's letter of intent. It was explained to her.

Ms. Lopez announced the even tomorrow at St. John's at 7:30 p.m. she encouraged those that will be attending to get there early.

Ms. Valdez passed around a flyer (*See Attachment A*) on behalf of Santa Fe County Commissioner Liz Stefanics regarding immigrants.

5. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

A.) Moment of Silence-In Memory of Cara Esquibel

The committee stood in silence for a moment.

Chair Seluja discussed presenting Ms. Esquibel's family with a token of thanks for her work and many years on the Immigration Committee. Mr. Sanchez recommended a plaque to be presented at a City Council Meeting. It was agreed to get that done to honor Ms. Esquibel.

B.) Introduction of newly appointed Committee Member- Susan Hayre

Chair Seluja introduced Ms. Hayre who was at a previous meeting and who showed interest in joining the Committee.

Ms. Hayre explained her work as a bilingual counselor and the work she does with other nearby schools. Ms. Hayre also described her work with the youth and the Sky Center at DeVargas Middle School in the evenings. The program offers counseling to Spanish speaking families. She will be attending a specialized training in Mexico City in June and July.

C.) Discussion and Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Seluja explained the need to have discussions for elections of Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee.

A discussion was held about the duties and roles of Chair and Vice Chair. It was decided to have the formal descriptions of each. The committee will have time to review them and propose any changes.

Ms. Guerrero expressed the need to have the protocol and procedures for decisions explained as well.

Ms. C de Vaca recommends that the election and discussion be postponed until further information is given and the Committee has a chance to review the specific duties.

A discussion was held on whether to hold a special meeting or have the next meeting dedicated to this issue.

Ms. Guerrero expressed the need to have a face to face meeting to decide on the Chair and Vice Chair. There could be other members interested in those positions.

A discussion was held about when to hold the meeting to discuss and elect the Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Sanchez will send out the description of the roles to the Committee and have the meeting scheduled on May 3, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. the meeting can be up to two hours long. The only two items on the agenda will be the discussion and the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

A brief discussion was held about having regular meetings every other month with the exception of the time surrounding the Legislature. There are always ongoing issues to follow around that time.

Ms. Lopez moved to postpone and table this matter tonight, however the information will be sent out before the next meeting on May 3, 2016 where the discussion and election for Chair and Vice Chair will be held with a second from Ms. Ugalde-Alcazar which passed by voice vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Educational Subcommittee-Follow up on meeting with Mr. Miguel Acosta

Ms. Lopez reported that a meeting was to be scheduled with Mr. Acosta however with the passing of Ms. Esquibel the meeting did not occur. Therefore the subcommittee will report at the next regular meeting.

B.) Follow up on letter to SFPD Police Chief

Chair Seluja was not at the last meeting, she apologized for her absence. The letter was sent to the Committee to review.

Chair Seluja explained to the new member the events that led up to the complaint and how it was handled by the Santa Fe Police Department.

A discussion was held about the case and the letter the Committee will need to send to the community member who presented the complaint.

A brief description of the events after the complaint was presented was given to the newest member of the Committee.

Ms. Diaz explained the normal route a complaint takes, in this particular case that did not occur. The press contacted her and perhaps other members, which is a rare occurrence. The Police Department also issued their own Press Release in regards to the case.

Chair Seluja stated it is a good idea to keep an open dialogue with the new Police Chief. The conversations are good to collaborate together and let him know how the Community feels.

Ms. Diaz would like to be able to make recommendations to present at the meetings. Chair Seluja said that would be welcomed.

C.) Follow up with Chair Seluja regarding language issues and translating important forms in Spanish

Chair Seluja stated there is no response from the City. However, the new budget begins July 1, 2016. Perhaps a letter can be sent explaining the need for these resources.

Ms. Diaz recommends the Committee gather information from other departments. Ms. Diaz suggested forming a subcommittee to focus on that. Mr. Sanchez recommends when that subcommittee is formed that they speak to Sebastian Gurule he is very knowledgeable.

D.) Follow up to the report to City Council about all action items for the year

Chair Seluja states the information is gathered and will be sent out to the Committee for review. Mr. Sanchez will work on getting it placed on the agenda for City Council.

E.) Follow up discussion regarding Social Media (Facebook) for the Immigration Committee

Ms. Ugalde-Alcazar reported that she met with Chris and he recommended she also meet with Sebastian Gurule to design a page off of the City webpage and the Facebook page.

Ms. Ugalde-Alcazar will present the design at the next regular meeting.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Rios agreed on the Social Media idea. It is great to connect with people and share events.

Ms. Lopez gave a history of the Committee to the new member. She explained the resolutions that have been created through the Committee.

8. REPORT FROM STAFF

Mr. Sanchez had nothing to report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Alejandra Seluja, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Vigil', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Vigil, Stenographer

Courting Immigrants

Many cities launched initiatives to attract and retain immigrants. Are they working?

Coastal cities such as Miami and New York have long been viewed as the gateways for immigrants starting new lives in America.

In recent years, however, a different crop of cities has laid out the welcome mat. Many of them are older Midwestern cities that have rarely been thought of as immigrant meccas. Places like Dayton, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; and Indianapolis have pursued a wide range of immigrant-friendly strategies, in part to prop up vulnerable economies and stem population losses. Other Rust Belt jurisdictions are joining them. "The Midwest is becoming the new gateway," says Guadalupe Velasquez, who coordinates the New American Initiative in Columbus.

But how much have these efforts actually changed migration patterns so far? Cities experience demographic shifts for a variety of reasons, and some of the programs have been going for a comparatively short time. A review of the latest Census data, though, suggests that some of the cities furthest along with immigrant initiatives have experienced some of the steepest recent gains in foreign-born populations.

Governing compared Census data collected between 2005-2009 with data from 2010-2014 for all cities with populations of at least 100,000. We found an average increase in the foreign-born population of 13.7 percent. Although longstanding immigrant hubs saw the largest total gains, movement of immigrants to less-established gateways is increasing at a much faster rate. Cities where the foreign-born make up less than a tenth of the total population recorded an average increase of 18 percent. These 106 jurisdictions collectively added twice as many foreign-born

as natives over the period. Cities where the foreign-born account for more than a quarter of the population, by comparison, added nearly equal numbers of foreign- and native-born residents.

Immigrant-friendly initiatives take different forms, led by either local governments, nonprofit groups or the business community. More recently, it's the governments that are assuming the lead role, says Rachel Peric, deputy director of Welcoming America, a national organization that works on the issue with local communities.

But it's difficult to pinpoint what role the immigrant outreach programs have played. Officials report that they're just beginning to evaluate their efforts, many of which are aimed more at assisting current foreign-born residents than bringing in new ones. All these cities, however, are convinced that immigrants are critical in helping to jumpstart a region's economy. "We know that doing nothing is a recipe for demographic and economic stagnation," Peric says.

The following summaries update immigrant-friendly initiatives in four cities.

DAYTON

Dayton has never been known as a leading destination for the foreign-born. But in recent years, officials there have seen immigration as an opportunity to boost the Rust Belt city's ailing economy, approving a "Welcome Dayton" initiative in 2011 that helped give it a more prominent place on the immigration map.

The comprehensive initiative, which has since garnered national recognition, enlists public agencies, schools, churches and the business community to better integrate immigrants into the city. The goal, says Program Coordinator Melissa Bertolo, is more to make Dayton welcoming to existing

immigrants than to attract newcomers. But this has had the effect of establishing new immigrant communities as well.

Between 2009 and 2014, Dayton's foreign-born population jumped an impressive 62 percent. That's more than in any other city reviewed that lost native residents during the same period. It was the fifth largest gain in any locality of 100,000 or more. One factor is an increase in secondary migration, or movement of immigrants who relocate after initially settling somewhere else in the U.S. Dayton's Ahiska Turkish community, for example, has multiplied particularly rapidly.

Bertolo doubts that publicity alone had a dramatic effect on immigrants' relocations. "If we are a truly welcoming and immigrant-friendly city, that will be the best strategy," she says.

Not all residents have greeted the immigrant community with enthusiasm. An initial survey found that Dayton neighborhoods with more immigrants actually reported less welcoming attitudes than others, so the city responded by convening community dialogue events, block parties and an international soccer tournament.

COLUMBUS

Columbus was one of the nation's earliest adopters of immigrant-friendly outreach. Officials first took up the issue in the mid-1990s, and former Mayor Michael Coleman established the city's current New American Initiative back in 2004. What started as assistance to individuals later shifted more to capacity building and support for various organizations that serve immigrants.

The city experienced an estimated 27 percent jump in the foreign-born population between 2009 and 2014, compared to

By Mike Maciag

an average increase of 9 percent for cities with over a half-million residents. About 11 percent of Columbus residents are now foreign-born—more than other larger cities in the region—a fact Velasquez, the program coordinator, attributes to the city's early work on the issue, along with the ample supply of jobs, affordable housing and higher education opportunities.

Like Dayton, Columbus is welcoming recent immigrants who've relocated from Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and other more prominent immigrant hubs. Competition for immigrants hasn't stopped cities from collaborating, though. Representatives from Columbus and five other regions formed the Ohio Welcoming Initiative to share ideas.

BALTIMORE

After years of gradual population decline, Baltimore set a goal in 2011 of attracting 10,000 families to the city over the following decade.

Despite the city's challenges, Baltimore's foreign-born population has climbed 18 percent since 2009, while the native-born population has declined 4 percent. "We've had consistent growth, but it's hard for us to tie it to our initiatives," says Catalina Rodriguez Lima, director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake formed a task force of city agencies and community stakeholders, which outlined 32 recommendations in 2014 that sought to highlight the role immigrants play as economic engines in the community. Rodriguez Lima reports to the mayor's economic development team, allowing her office to be more nimble than if it were a separate entity.

Much of Baltimore's effort centers around giving current residents reasons to stay. These immigrants, in turn, help lure their friends and family to the city—far more effectively than any publicity. "Ultimately, it really comes down to the person you trust," Rodriguez Lima says. "The messenger is critical."

POPULATION CHANGE

The foreign-born population grew at the fastest rate in these local jurisdictions with at least 100,000 people over the five-year period ending in 2014.



LOUISVILLE

Louisville has emerged as one of the hottest urban centers for immigrants in recent years. Its foreign-born population rose an estimated 42 percent between 2009 and 2014, more than in any other jurisdiction with at least a half-million residents.

Migration of refugees accounts for the single largest driver of the increase, says Bryan Warren, who took over as head of the metro government's globalization office last year. The U.S. State Department works with resettlement agencies to make the initial placement of refugees. An average of approximately 1,100 refugees settled in Louisville in each of the past three years, roughly double the annual totals from a decade ago, according to federal statistics.

Although Louisville's immigrant population remains small compared to other larger cities, its presence has already been felt. The newcomers have added diversity to the city's downtown, opening businesses along the main business corridor. "A strong immigrant and foreign community is one of the bellwethers of a great 21st-century city," Warren says. But he adds that "as the city grows, we're beginning to see the strain of housing options, and the refugee community is no different." The arrival of immigrants is further playing out in the school system, where there's a growing need to focus on foreign language instruction.

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Read the full report with additional data at governing.com/immigrantcities

