



# Agenda

**Immigration Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019  
Round House Room, 500 Market Station, Suite 200  
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. October 1, 2019 Meeting
  - b. November 5, 2019 Meeting
4. Community Comments:
  - a. Jared Berenice Estrada (NM Dream Team)
5. New Business/Action Items:
  - a. Welcome and introduction: Val Whitley, the new member of the Immigration Committee.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Subcommittee Updates:
    - i. Welcoming Communities
    - ii. Education
    - iii. Social Media & Communications
    - iv. Police Department
7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members
8. Report from Staff
9. Adjournment

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<b>RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>November 26, 2019</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>8:39 AM</b>

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DECEMBER 3, 2019

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CALL TO ORDER	Maria Cristina Lopez, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order for the Immigration Committee at 4:30 pm at the City of Santa Fe Market Station. Roll call reflects a quorum.	Page 1
APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Remove New Business: Val Whitley not present.  <b>Mr. Cornejo moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous vote.</b>	Page 1
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 1, 2019 and November 5, 2019	<b>Mr. Cornejo moved to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</b>  <b>Ms. Guerrero moved to approve the October 1, 2019 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Cornejo motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</b>	Page 1-2
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ADJOURNMENT	There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the Acting Chair called for adjournment at 5:50 pm	Page 10

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday December 3, 2019**

**4:30 pm – 5:50 pm**

1. Call to Order: The Immigration Committee meeting was called or order by Amparo Guerrero, Acting Chair who asked that Maria Cristina Lopez be Acting Chair this meeting. Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm, Market Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Roll Call reflects a quorum.

**Roll Call:**

**PRESENT**

Maria Cristina Lopez, Acting Chair  
Marcela Diaz  
Amparo Guerrero  
Ivan Cornejo  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca

**NOT PRESENT:**

Val Whitley  
Javier Rios

**OTHERS PRESENT**

George Carrasco, Staff Liaison  
Brian Rodriguez, SFPD Liaison  
Julie Sanchez, Interim Division Director, Youth and Family Services Department  
Dr. James Lujan, Associate Superintendent  
Berenice Estrada, NM Dream Team  
Jose Chavez, NM Dream Team  
Yanette, Field Organizer, NM Dream Team  
Catherine Lewyn, Southside Journal Reporter  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of the Agenda

Remove New Business: Val Whitley not present.

**Mr. Cornejo moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous vote.**

3. Approval of the Minutes – October 1, 2019 and November 5, 2019

Fran Lucero received a thank you from Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez for the excellent transcription from Spanish to English and capturing the presentation. Thank you.

Christina Cristina Lopez no "h"  
Vero Velasquez

**Mr. Cornejo moved to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes as amended, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**Ms. Guerrero moved to approve the October 1, 2019 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Cornejo motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

#### 4. Community Comments

a. Jared Berenice Estrada, NM Dream Team and Jose Chavez, NM Dream Team

Jose Chavez introduced himself to the committee, he graduated from Santa Fe High School in 2019, he came from Mexico 5 years ago, and is a member of NM Dream Team and has been with them for 2 years. As one of the largest organizations in NM, we help young immigrants' student's to study, we teach them their rights and we teach the teachers in public schools and parents as well. In the summers we do trainings with the students that came here recently. We have a project called Dreams on Campus which is for teachers only which helps the immigrant students understand their rights and we talk about safe zones in the schools. We are in four schools and during lunch we do meetings, training and do talks to let them know they are not alone.

Ms. Estrada came to the United States and has been with New Mexico Dream Team for 6 years. We create a safe space for student's, and we help them engage the community, teach them their rights, and help with their studies. We teach the teachers, so they know the rights of these children. We are working on a project for 2020 – we want to create a safe space for our kids and their parents, we want them to be able to teach their children. We plan to meet with them once a month starting in January 2020 and we are currently working with Santa Fe Public Schools on this project. We provide training to the students and we want to invite other organizations so they can provide their services to our community.

The Chair asked if the safe spaces would be in several places. Ms. Estrada said that they would do it in only one place. They are currently working with SFPS and they want to do it for High Schools, Middle Schools and Elementary schools. They would like to find a common location where all parents could attend. We are planning an educational summit and are thinking about the Higher Education Center, but we do not have a venue at this time. We want to invite as many schools and members of the community. She asked the Immigration Committee how they could support them in this project.

Ms. Guerrero expressed her thanks to Ms. Estrada and Mr. Chavez for creating these safe spaces. Ms. Guerrero would like to have a meeting with the Education Committee and Dr. Lujan to see how we can work together and connect our mutual priorities and how

we can move forward the work that you are doing. There are a multitude of services that are needed by our students and parents and we want to have a broader exposure to the community to get help. How many members are there in Dream Team?

The Chair said that the Immigration Committee as a whole could participate by explaining how the city supports immigrants, how the Sanctuary Policy was passed. Immigrants passed that. If you want to invite the Immigration Committee as a whole to talk about those policies, we would be happy to do that.

Mr. Cornejo expressed his compliments for the hard work that they are doing and said he is looking forward for the Educational Summit coming to his school and the teachers are excited to learn more. He would also like to know more about the monthly meetings, he knows that Adelante has a weekly meeting called Juntos los jueves. He would like to know what is in place in order to not duplicate the project.

Ms. Estrada said they are working with Jennifer Hooten from SFPS, she is the math coordinator. She wants to do it more like a school basis, we want it to be fun but we are working more towards offering a curriculum to our parents, a lot of them didn't finish school and were not able to get jobs so we want to provide educational tools for them. They can then help their kids, it will be bi-lingual, there will be games and food for both the parents and students.

Ms. Guerrero asked how many members are in NM and what is the process if someone wants to be a part of this group?

Ms. Estrada said they are currently in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Albuquerque is the largest, there are about 60 active members in Santa Fe. Yanette, said that their contact list is about 20-300 members. She was present and she is a field organizer. They reiterated that they meet once a month with everyone, once a week they meet with different schools.

Jared said that it is different from Adelante, a lot of the parents did not receive their school credentials and the goal is to teach them so they can help their students. They are working with Jennifer Hooten from SFPS to create an agenda for these meetings.

Dr. Lujan has been collaborating with some of their projects, the Superintendent of Schools also provided space for them to meet with the teachers. SFPS is very happy with the collaboration that they are creating with the parents, students and teachers.

#### 5. New Business/Action

- a. Welcome and Introduction: Val Whitley, the new member of the Immigration Committee  
Mr. Whitley was travelling and could not be present at this meeting.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Subcommittee Updates:

#### i. Welcoming Communities – Marcella Diaz

Ms. Diaz clarified that originally this item was to be on as an Action Item as it is time sensitive so they will proceed as an information item. The city participates in a Citizenship Now Project, there are about 150 people in this project to become US Citizens. This project is meant to capture those people who don't have access to the regular avenues in which you can apply for citizenship, whether it be a legal organization, be able to pay the fees, we have a really low cost loan program through the Guadalupe Credit Union for the Citizenship Project. There are already barriers for citizenship but there are more on the way. We wanted to share this information that on November 14<sup>th</sup> (Exhibit A), the Trump Administration published a proposed rule that would hike the citizenship application fee from \$640 to \$1,170. That is an 83% increase. A lot of the people that are coming through SOMOS had multiple people in their families trying to become citizens and this is more than a hardship. Right now, \$640 is a lot for a low income or medium income people especially if there are many in the family that are trying to apply at once. There are already waivers in place but one of the changes in the proposed rule is to eliminate fee waivers for citizenship, a lawful permanent resident, employment authorization and other application. That would really cut out a lot of people who would authorize qualify to apply, not just for citizenship but for other adjustment of status. It would also create a \$50 filing fee for asylum applicants, and it would make asylum seekers pay. This would be for people just arriving to the United States with their families, an additional \$490 for a work permit. This is something that just isn't possible for a lot of people. It would also increase the cost of DACA renewals for some of the younger people who are here, from \$495 to \$765.

What is proposed is that they take this additional funding and put it into enforcement for the Immigration and Customs agencies. They want to transfer funding from one agency to another and use our money to do that. This rule has been proposed, they are trying to fast track it, this is why we are trying to encourage people. It is likely going to become a rule because this is something that is under the purview of the administration and the executive. It will really impact the ability of lawful permanent residents; DACA recipients and others to continue to renew their status or to become US citizens in this country. People are being urged to apply as quickly as possible with the current rates. The strategy; there will most likely be a lawsuit at the national level much like the lawsuit against the last proposed regulation change on public charge, we talked about this in a previous meeting. Part of the strategy is to deluge the government with comments, because the more comments that they have across the board the longer it will take for them to process it so it will take much longer to finalize and implement the rule so we are trying to wait out the clock. The exhibit details how you can send comments; the city can send a comment by December 16<sup>th</sup>, our Mayor and Council can send a comment. One the action items was; 1) how to figure out how we could send comments as individuals, especially our city especially given the nature

of our citizenship program and our partnership on how our city Mayor could officially send comments, possibly draft an OpEd encouraging others to send comments. It will likely be challenged but it will get challenged once it goes in to effect just like the public charge rule. Part of deluging them with comments is to slow down the process. Wait out the clock is not the right comment, I hope everyone understands. Ms. Diaz asked for any ideas, it isn't an action item, the information was provided on how to submit comments, and she asked how we can get this message to the Mayor and Council without violating the rules that we have to abide by. We feel it important for the city to send a message.

Ms. Sanchez suggested that the Immigration Committee request that city staff create a letter of support through either board members that are interested in doing that and having city staff present it to the City Manager for their signature and their approval.

Ms. Diaz said it is due by the 16<sup>th</sup>, there is a template for resolution, there is language in the Exhibit, we could draft something, there is a template for elected officials and of course we encourage everyone to do their individual comment.

The Chair suggested that city staff draft an administrative letter than can be reviewed by the City Manager, Mayor and Council to meet the deadline of December 16, 2019. Ms. Sanchez said she will draft a letter and send it to the committee members for review and approval, staff will print it out and send to each of the council members and the Mayor.

Ms. Diaz said there are attempts at the national and federal level to move forward positive visions for what we want the country to be doing when it comes to immigration. There has been an Act, it is called the New Deal for New Americans Act introduced on October 30<sup>th</sup> by Rep. Mang, Rep. Garcia and Rep. Jayapal. We have sent this information to our NM Congressional delegation and so far, the only person from our congressional delegation that has co-sponsored the Act is Rep. Halland. We are really interested in getting our representative for this area, especially given how dedicated Santa Fe to helping lawful residents in becoming US citizens. This isn't just about citizenship; it will basically do the opposite of what this rule does. It would actually lower application fees to \$50 per person who is a lawful permanent resident. It would remove certain obstacles like fees to lawful citizenship and voting rights that favor the wealthy and people who have the money. It would freeze application fees, process backlogs and it would provide additional things in USCIS codes to hold them accountable for mismanagement, information included in Exhibit B. This is also very interesting, and we should think about this here in Santa Fe and New Mexico, it will provide additional funding for ESL programs, citizenship programs, workforce development programs, specifically geared towards new Americans or immigrant families, which of course helps everyone in our city. I was privileged enough to do a study 5 years ago in Germany before there was an influx of migrants and immigrants to Europe and it was interesting to us at SOMOS, that their country, and not only their

country, that had an office at the national level of Integration. They worked directly with localities, business, local governments to actually create programs to maximize the potential and contribution of immigrants into their country. This does something very similar; it would create a National Office on New Americans that would really think about how we do more to include and integrate families into our communities at every level and work directly with offices of Integration. We recently had them on a radio show to talk about this act, the National Partnership of New Americans which we are a member of their coalition and do our citizenship work through them here in Santa Fe. We asked, if they are taking cues from other countries that are doing this like Germany and they answered; no, actually they are taking cues from states and cities like Santa Fe that have Offices of Integration, immigrant inclusion, committees like ours. They said they are trying to do that but at the national level. It is a good Act and I wanted to present it so that we could think about endorsing it, maybe getting our city officially on board. This does not have a deadline, so we can wait until a future meeting, but now you have the information before you so we can make a better decision in January. Having our Mayor and City Council on board, our committee on board is very important to Rep Ben Ray Lujan, who should be co-sponsoring it, especially given that Santa Fe and northern New Mexico in general, all the incredible policies to integrate people on the books.

Complete Count Committee: SOMOS and the City of Santa Fe are a part of the Complete Count Committee for the Census for Santa Fe County, and SOMOS is part of the Governors Complete Statewide Commission. This week, SOMOS and the sub-committee will be presenting on reaching out too hard to count communities, we are presenting what we feel are best practices. SOMOS contribution was doing a lot of work in our community getting feedback from immigrant families here in Santa Fe and other parts of the state to put together what we think Best Practices are. (Exhibit C) Best Practices are outlined and I welcome your feedback; they will be finalized and presented to the County as well as to the state. In addition to the feedback we are getting from immigrant community members here in Santa Fe, we also did an extensive literature review of other organizations across the country, community based GOTC, which is get out the count. We are trying to find ways to keep this committee involved in census outreach efforts. We want to assure that we are using trusted messengers such as first responders, firefighters, medical providers, leaders and members from community-based organizations and educators. We are also working with non-profits in the communities. We are focusing on confidentiality and security of information and one of the things we are letting people know is don't be patronizing to the immigrant community. What they are hearing from the US Census Bureau is its, confidential, confidential, they are never going to share this information, but what we know to be true is that just because certain things are against the law, it doesn't mean that this presidential administration isn't breaking the law and isn't being challenged in court. SOMOS un Pueblo Unido just knocked on 3500 doors, to get the message out. There were many people who said that they opened their doors because they trusted SOMOS. We recommend presenting the information, saying that every time



there has been an attempt to misuse or to raid information that the community has fought back successfully through the courts and we have won and that is why this information is protected and private. Those are just ideas and we want to continue to make sure that these recommendations that are coming not just from SOMOS but from a lot of other immigrant-based organizations not just in NM but across the country. We have tested these directly with people in the doors at community presentations. They will be presented this week at the Complete Census Committee meeting. At this time, we are presenting high level information and it is important to continue to figure out how we will count the difficult areas of population. There are a high percentage of renters, foreign born, people who are native American who are receiving public assistance, and this is how they determine the high priorities. We are encouraging people to self-respond early by March, they will be able to do by phone, email and in person. We are recommending that there should be across the state that there be a safety element in place. There is a lot of information shared between the State and ICE, we need to push our state. As a city we should push our state to have set policies in place, so people are not afraid to participate in the census. We want to make sure we don't leave anyone out. Ms. Diaz said if there is any feedback to please let her know so she can add to the best practices. We are concentrating on confidentiality, just because they say they aren't breaking the law, we still want a commitment that confidentiality is a must. We want to make sure that these recommendations are recognized that they are not coming just from SOMOS but from other organizations.

The Committee expressed their thank you to Ms. Diaz for putting this valuable information together.

Citizenship and Census Corners at the Libraries. Ms. Diaz said there will be a future announcement on when this will begin. We have information at the LaFarge Library, and we will continue to get this information duplicated throughout the libraries. In January we will do what we refer to as an introduction or inauguration of this program.

The Chair asked if there is any information on social media, the website for the city regarding the Census? Ms. Sanchez said not at this time. If there is information to provide, Ms. Sanchez can follow up. Ms. Sanchez said they have partners that they work with to get the message out on city information, there is also the City website and she believes there is also twitter.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca asked; besides the Immigration Committee members providing information, i.e. flyers and information for the website, what other resources do you have to post this information and how do you connect with other communities and meetings in the city to connect with social media so that we can all be connected? Not only with what is happening here, but how do we connect with other non-profits or others in the community?

Ms. Sanchez answered that our biggest part of that is our network of non-profit providers and community partners. Whenever we have things that go out like surveys to help support, say MPO or Economic Development, we send flyers to them and we go through our entire network. For us that is a large range of non-profit organizations that serve adult families as well as the public schools. For getting out to our business community we rely on our partners in economic development who have a huge network of business partners that they work with. This is how we get flyers out in that network. In terms of the broader community, currently we use the City of Santa Fe Facebook page, that is the biggest and broader community outreach that the city has available. There is also a twitter for the city of Santa Fe as well, so any flyers that get posted from city related committees can be posted on those as well.

ii. Education

Ms. Guerrero and Dr. Lujan

Flyer: Second meeting with Superintendent Veronica Garcia, SFPS with the community at Capital High School from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm on 4 December 2019. We are going to develop three issues for discussion; participation, security, mental health and wellness. Thank you to Dr. Lujan for his support and help for the direction and orchestrating this meeting with the SFPS Superintendent.

Dr. Lujan announced that December 13<sup>th</sup> is the start of the winter break. Parents are invited to attend the: Bilingual Multicultural Parent Advisory Council Meetings – October 16, January 8, 2020, March 11, 2020 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. These meetings are held at BF Young Professional Building, (Exhibit E). We feel that family and community members need to be at the table with different initiatives, not just specific issues but celebrations, their part of implementation and programs. We take their comments and suggestions very serious. There are many, sometimes there are 20 and sometimes there are 50 in attendance. The Immigration Committee members were invited to attend. The State of the Schools will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at the Santa Fe Convention Center.

iii. Social Media & Communications.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca said that she had met with Mr. Vigil several times. We go to the process of getting pictures of each of the members with bios for the social media website. There has been a stagnant time of no real progress and we continue to want to have our community information given to our staff liaison for posting so it can be out there. We know there has been change and challenges; what is our current status? We are at a point where we want what happens here to be on the website.

Ms. Sanchez stated that they staff a number of committees and all of them are desiring an individual page for their committee and it makes sense because each one is so specific and dealing with so many different issues in the community. Ms. Sanchez said that she spoke to the City PIO (Public Information Officer) to get

guidance on how to approach this issue. In the past, no city employees were allowed to have social media, then they became laxer and were allowing different departments to have it, we are trying to figure out where we stand currently. What they have decided on is giving us a city specific e-mail address that we can tie in to Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat if you wanted, but it could be tied in to multiple different social media websites and that would be specific to Immigration Committee. At that time, anybody who would send a response, or wants more information or messages on that particular website, that message would go directly to Mr. Carrasco. Right now, IT is getting that created for us. She detailed that it will be for many other committees as each one wants to be more community engaged. Ms. Sanchez said she hopes that the city would have budget to have a dedicated person to maintain internal social media for the city. She hopes that there will be a Facebook Sub-Committee face page. Ms. Sanchez stated that part of her strategic plan is to be more community focused and community engaged, and we can't do that if we don't have a presence in social media. This is a big push for us, and I hope that by the end of next month we will have a complete and total Facebook page that we can start addition people to, and post things live.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca expressed her thanks.

iv. Santa Fe Police Department

U-Visas – Point of Contact: Ben Valdez, Deputy Chief, Administrative Matters

The numbers presented are good until the end of October 2019.

Approved to date: 25

Denied: 5

Pending 1

Ms. Diaz asked to assure that the reason for denial is in writing. Was there additional information that could have been provided so they wouldn't be denied and to assure that Sheila Lewis is being used properly? We want to make sure that everyone is following the protocol and to assure we are following the resolution. SFPD said that the suggestion of inviting Sheila Lewis would be a good idea to allow her an opportunity to speak about the denials.

The Chair had a question about a situation in the courts and asked about Law Enforcement having access to a data base where they can check vehicle information and driver's status at any time? That is correct.

Thank you for the report.

7. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members

Shelley Cohen attended the meeting and she has submitted her letter of interest to become a member. She represents the Quakers and takes the information back to them.

Ms. Guerrero asked about the status of the Chair. Mr. Rios has had a change in employment, and he would like to continue as a member and have an election for the Chair. Ms. Guerrero would also like to talk about re-organization of the committee. She would also like to see the minutes on the webpage for the Immigration Committee. She expressed her thank you to all for the work done. We are the voice for the immigrants in Santa Fe.

The Chair stated that we need to report to the City Council by February 2020.

8. Report from Staff

We are accepting applications for Immigration Committee members until December 7<sup>th</sup>. We need to think about budgets, translators, conferences, events., provide to Mr. Carrasco.

We need to think about the Resolutions that have passed that had a budget attached to them. If there are any Resolutions that should have something done by the city.

Ms. Diaz: Convening an Inter-government Work Group on Sanctuary – 4 governments to share information on sanctuary issues. 2017

Language Access – What is the cost to the city? 2017

Title change for Mr. Carrasco, he is ½ time in Immigration. Other cities have an office full time and the committee would like a full-time staff member.

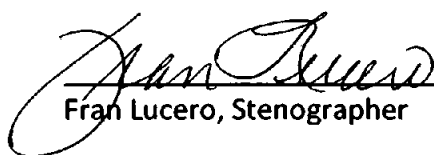
9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the Chair called to adjourn at 5:50 pm.

**SIGNATURE PAGE:**

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Maria Cristina Chavez, Acting Chair



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Fran Lucero, Stenographer



## ***Fight Back on the Exorbitant Fee Hikes on Citizenship, Asylum, DACA, and Other Forms of Status!***

### ***Digital Toolkit***

#### **Background**

On November 14th, 2019, the Trump administration published its proposed fee schedule regulation that targets low-income and working class immigrants by effectively pricing them out of citizenship, asylum, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), work permits, and other forms of immigration status and benefits.

The rule, if implemented, would:

- increase citizenship application fees by 83 percent, increasing the N-400 fee from \$640 to \$1,170;
- create a \$50 fee for filing certain asylum applications and make asylum seekers pay \$490 for a work permit;
- increase the cost of DACA renewals from \$495 to \$765;
- eliminate fee waivers for citizenship, lawful permanent residency, employment authorization, and other applications;
- transfer \$207.6 million in applications fees from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for enforcement purposes, including denaturalization.

The proposed rule is not in effect yet, but, if implemented, threatens access to citizenship and other forms of relief based on wealth and class. The rule is open for public comments until December 16, 2019.

#### **Topline message**

The proposed rule is an affront to American values and the promise of the Statue of Liberty that welcomes immigrants regardless of their wealth. Immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers make our diverse nation stronger, more prosperous, and culturally vibrant. Instead of marginalizing them, we should further include and invest in them.

We have clear solutions that unite us and move our nation forward. The New Deal for New Americans Act, introduced last week by Reps. Meng, García, and Jayapal, would prevent the proposed rule by the administration from happening by expanding access to citizenship, freezing application fees, statutorily protecting fee waivers, and further include immigrants and refugees through workforce development and English-language learning programs.

*Exhibit A*



## Take Action Against the Proposed Rule!

- 1) Submit a comment opposing the fee increases! Deadline to submit comments is, as of now, December 16.
- 2) Ask that your Representative endorse the New Deal for New Americans Act (by sending them the "Dear Colleague" letter)
- 3) Organize an immigration legal clinic for citizenship applications and DACA renewals between November 2019 - April 2020 before the fees possibly increase.
- 4) Speak out against this egregious attack on immigrants and refugees by pricing them out of immigration applications! See template social media posts below:



## SOCIAL MEDIA POST TEMPLATES, @TARGETS, AND #HASHTAGS

[GRAPHICS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

### Sample Posts

#### **General**

- Trump's proposal to increase the naturalization application fee to \$1,170 is an attack on American values of welcoming immigrants and celebrating diversity  
#TearDownthe2ndWall #OneMillionby2020 #NewDealforNewAmericans
  - **Click to tweet:**<https://ctt.ec/o3xi1>
- Trump says increase application fees, we say increase applicants and voters!  
#OneMillionby2020 #NewDealforNewAmericans
  - **Click to tweet:**<https://ctt.ec/t84OS>
- Immigrants & refugees are welcome here regardless of class or wealth!  
#OneMillionby2020 #NewDealforNewAmericans



- **Click to tweet:** [https://ctt.ec/1\\_sI1](https://ctt.ec/1_sI1)
- .@USCIS should be dedicating their resources to processing applications, not transferring fund to be used for disastrous enforcement policies #TearDownthe2ndWall #NewDealforNewAmericans
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/a3383>
- Fee waivers create a pathway for low-income and working class immigrants to naturalize and apply for statuses they are eligible for, and, in turn, fully participate in their communities in ways that benefit us all! #TearDownthe2ndWall #OneMillionby2020 #NewDealforNewAmericans
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/R7yA3>

### ***Citizenship for All***

- We urge everyone who is eligible to apply for citizenship ASAP, before the Trump administration makes the process more expensive and complicated #OneMillionby2020 #NaturalizeNOW
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/9251D>
- Around 9 million people are eligible to naturalize across the country but haven't done so yet, and 3.7 million of them can become citizens for free or at a reduced cost using available fee waivers. Don't delay! #NaturalizeNOW #OneMillionby2020
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/Mj3h9>
- Citizenship is the only real protection for you and your family. Apply ASAP to protect yourself, your family, and your community, and to keep building towards your American dreams and prosperity! #OneMillionby2020 #NaturalizeNOW
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/k9a23>
- Apply for citizenship ASAP so you can make your voice heard and vote in the #2020elections-- it's not too late! #OneMillionby2020 #NaturalizeNOW
  - **Click to tweet:** <https://ctt.ec/P8d4x>

### ***Threats to Citizenship***

- The proposed .@USCIS fee increase for naturalization applications is the latest Trump attack on immigrant families that would deny citizenship to hundreds of thousands of eligible immigrants, making naturalizing a privilege for only the rich. #TearDownthe2ndWall #OneMillionby2020

## TEMPLATE LETTER FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

November \_\_, 2019

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Mark Koumans  
Acting Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20529

The Honorable Paul Ray  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
757 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Re: Proposed Rule Increasing Fees for Citizenship, Lawful Permanent Residency, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and Asylum, and Transferring Funds from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for Enforcement Purposes**

Dear Mr. Wolf, Mr. Koumans, and Mr. Ray,

I am writing to oppose the proposed rule on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements, CIS No. 2627-18; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2019-0010, RIN 1615-AC18, respectfully request that USCIS withdraw the proposed rule, and instead work to develop a welcoming and inclusive society for immigrant and refugee communities.

The approximately nine million immigrants who are eligible for citizenship have been in the United States and have been a part of our communities for years, if not decades; have come to this country in search of a better life; and with their families have contributed so much to their communities and our economy. The opportunity for them to naturalize is as old as the nation itself, was created by the



Constitution, and is codified in federal law. It has long contributed to our strength, diversity, and prosperity.

There are many others who seek immigration benefits with deep roots in the United States. Lawful permanent residents are a part of our communities and families and contribute greatly in our workplaces. Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have grown up here, know no other home and enjoy broad public support to become full-fledged Americans.

Asylum seekers come here because they have no other choice and have a legal and human right to seek asylum. Our welcoming them shows that we are a nation of refuge that upholds our obligations under international and domestic law. Other immigrants, like victims of crime who have suffered physical or mental abuse and have received a U Visa, deserve a safe place to live with their families. Efforts to shut the door on them and deny them their rightful place in the U.S. by charging exorbitant application fees fail to uphold our humanity and our values.

These immigrants, and millions more who make this country what it is, are not only family members, neighbors, and friends, they are a critical part of our city/state.

It is for these reasons that we oppose the proposed rule that increases application fees for citizenship, lawful permanent residency, DACA, asylum, and other applications. These price hikes, as well as the elimination of most fee waivers, will effectively price out low-income and working class immigrants and send the wrong message that access to the American Dream depends on your class and level of wealth.

It is fundamentally immoral to increase citizenship application fees by 83 percent, from \$640 to \$1,170; increase fees associated with lawful permanent residency from \$1,225 to \$2,195; increase DACA renewals from \$495 to \$765; charge for the first time \$50 for asylum; and add a 559 percent increase in fees for a U Visa holder, who has already suffered so much and is trying to remain with their family, from \$230 to \$1,515.

It is also tragically hypocritical that USCIS rationalizes the proposed fee increases by stating that it lacks sufficient funds at the same time that it proposes to transfer \$207.6 million from USCIS fees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for enforcement purposes, including denaturalization.

The proposed rule is not who we are and undermines our national values. We can and must do better.

We respectfully urge you to withdraw the proposed rule and seek alternative ways to address budget shortfalls and backlogs and processing delays that are less harmful and discriminatory. This could include alternative funding streams and cost-saving measures and reduction in the growing number of barriers to citizenship and other statuses for which millions are eligible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

## TEMPLATE RESOLUTION FOR CITIES

CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION in support of expanding access to citizenship, lawful permanent residency, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), asylum, and other forms of immigration status and benefits for millions of immigrants, and in opposition to USCIS' proposed fee increases to said applications, which would cause great harm to our city and nation and substantially limit access based on wealth and lack of disposable income.

WHEREAS, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ is a welcoming and inclusive city that welcomes immigrants and refugees;

WHEREAS, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ recognizes the strength, diversity, and prosperity that immigrants and refugees contribute to our city;

WHEREAS, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ is dedicated to investing in strategies that further welcome immigrants and refugees; not limit their ability to live and work in their community;

WHEREAS, newly naturalized citizens become further civically engaged, including by voting, on average earn more, and are able to contribute more fully to the economy;

WHEREAS, immigrants who are eligible for lawful permanent residency have deep roots in our country, are a critical part of our families and communities, and contribute greatly to our economy;

WHEREAS, recipients of DACA have grown up here, know no other home and enjoy broad public support to become full-fledged Americans;

WHEREAS, asylum seekers have a legal and human right to seek asylum and our domestic and international obligations require that we allow them that right;

WHEREAS, U Visa holders and other recipients of humanitarian-based visas should not be priced out of the opportunity to remain with their families;

WHEREAS, the recently proposed rule by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) would, if implemented, increase the citizenship application by 83 percent, from \$640 to \$1,170; increase fees related to lawful permanent residency from \$1,225 to \$2,195; increase DACA renewals from \$495 to \$765; charge for the first time \$50 for asylum; and add a 559 percent increase in fees for a U Visa holder, from \$230 to \$1,515;

WHEREAS, the rule would also eliminate most fee waivers, effectively pricing out immigrants based on their lack of income and class;

WHEREAS, USCIS rationalizes the proposed fee increases by stating that it lacks sufficient funds while at the same time that it proposes to transfer \$207.6 million in benefit application fees to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for enforcement purposes, including denaturalization.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_, THE MAYOR/COUNTY EXECUTIVE CONCURRING, THAT:**

Section 1. The City of \_\_\_\_\_ respectfully but strongly urges USCIS to withdraw the proposed rule to increase citizenship and other immigration statuses and benefits; eliminate most fee waivers, and transfer USCIS funds to ICE for enforcement purposes;

Section 2. The City of \_\_\_\_\_ urges USCIS to instead work to expand access to citizenship and other statuses, regardless of class, for the benefit of all.

Section 3. The City of \_\_\_\_\_ commits to working with community-based organizations, including through funding, to increase access to citizenship and other immigration statuses and benefits.

Adopted by the City Council the \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

The Mayor/County Executive concurred the \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor/County Executive

Filed by me this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.



## NEW DEAL FOR NEW AMERICANS ACT

*Prosperity Powered by the People*

**Protecting our Families, Advancing Equal Access to Full Citizenship,  
and Investing in our Shared Future**

The National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) strongly supports the New Deal for New Americans Act introduced on October 30, 2019, by U.S. Representatives. Grace Meng (NY), Jesús "Chuy" García (IL), Pramila Jayapal (WA), which honors America's history and strength in diversity by laying out a proactive, visionary roadmap to help immigrants and refugees navigate their adopted homeland and become a full and integral part of our shared social, economic and civic life.

Our nation needs to reset its path forward on immigration. When it comes to New Americans, we are in a downward spiral of anti-immigrant and anti-refugee rhetoric and policies that divide our communities and undermine our future. As we waste billions on immigration enforcement, incarcerate families, rip away their children, close the doors to legal immigration and make it more difficult to attain U.S. citizenship, we leave immigrants and refugees living on the margins of society, unable to fully belong and contribute to our shared nation. This hurts all of us, as it undermines the social, economic and civic cohesion so vital to a strong United States.

Ending today's culture of fear and division is vitally important to our country's future: more than 44.5 million immigrants reside in the United States and together they have 45 million U.S.-born children. This means that 28% of the overall U.S. population—more than one in four people—are of immigrant origin. The degree to which these Americans and aspiring Americans feel like they belong and invest and contribute to our society has monumental implications for everyone's well-being and ability to thrive.

It's time for a different vision and narrative, one that fulfills Lady Liberty's promise, honors our values as a diverse and welcoming nation and engenders solutions that allow New Americans to truly belong, fully contribute and achieve the American Dream.

To accomplish this, the bill:

- **Mandates a National Office on New Americans to lead a federal immigrant and refugee inclusion and integration strategy coordinated with state and local governments and community stakeholders**
- **Tears down the "Second Wall" of obstacles to U.S. citizenship and voting rights that favor the privileged and wealthy**

*Exhibit B*



- Application fees are frozen, processing backlogs reduced and USCIS is held accountable for mismanagement.
  - Naturalization is made accessible and affordable for all eligible residents, including the working poor and elderly, with a \$50 application fee and more generous fee waivers for all applications.
  - Automatic voter registration is made available on a voluntary basis after the oath ceremony to newly naturalized citizens.
- 
- **Launches federally funded programs for English-language learning and workforce development for immigrants and refugees that include--**
    - Contextualized English instruction to promote the social, economic, and civic integration of adults and their families by helping students prepare for naturalization and to earn a GED, gain digital and financial literacy, and develop an understanding of the housing, healthcare and school systems in the U.S.
    - Workforce development programs with an integrated education and training approach to help adults acquire basic skills (reading, writing, math, and English) while pursuing occupational or industry-specific training to help close the skills gap between immigrants and refugees and the needs of the labor market.
- 
- **Raises refugee admissions to a minimum of 110,000 and updates and fortifies our resettlement programs so that refugees and their families may live in dignity, and streamlines their path to citizenship.**
  - **Gives immigrants and refugees--in the face of hateful attacks and detention and deportation threats--a fair opportunity to defend their legal right to stay here by accessing comprehensive legal services, from attorneys and accredited representatives to "Community Navigators" (community leaders who support individuals through the immigration system) and "know-your-rights" education.**

## **General Best Practices for Outreach to Hard-to-count (HTC) Communities**

To overcome barriers and improve response rates for hard to locate, hard to interview, hard to persuade and hard to contact minority, vulnerable and underrepresented communities, the following are best practices for get-out-the-count (GOTC) programs:

1. Use trusted messengers such as first responders and firefighters, medical providers, leaders/members from community-based organizations, and educators for direct outreach and communications.
2. Work with community and service-based nonprofit organizations to deliver accurate Census information to HTC populations. Delivery should include in-person canvassing and phone banking that use high quality conversations, as well as targeted mailings and texting. In-person outreach by those with longstanding and established trust in historically undercounted communities is ideal.
3. Target neighborhoods utilizing HTC maps and tracts (CUNY, Voter Action Network) that identify where households most at risk for missing the Census are located. The CUNY HTC map provides regular updates on self-response rates in real time.
4. Create integrated plans for GOTC nested with other nonpartisan civic participation activities such as voter registration and community education campaigns.
5. Train community members to disseminate accurate Census information.
6. Encourage early self-response in all digital and in-person outreach.
7. Utilize digital tools and tested messages that are community-specific. Work with community-based groups to create digital content and digital organizing tools and to receive ongoing feedback about which messages are working best with targeted populations.

## **Best practices for Latino immigrants and Spanish speakers**

1. Encourage early and thorough self-response to avoid having U.S. Census workers knock on residents' doors.
2. Recruit institutions, nonprofits and other community partners where immigrants can access a computer with internet access to self-respond with bilingual helpers.
3. Ensure that immigrants' sensitive personal information is not shared with federal immigration officials or the U.S. Census Bureau. There have been attempts by the federal government to access citizenship information from local databases (New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division, for example).
4. Rely on trusted messengers and community partners. Complete Count Committees are often run by counties, and many counties continue to collaborate and share information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). Because distrust of local, state and federal governments is such a big barrier to Census participation, CCC's run by these types of counties may not be the best messengers.
5. There is still significant confusion in immigrant communities about the security of information, who gets counted, and whether the citizenship question will still be included. Utilize tested messages:
  - a. Confidentiality--it is a crime for U.S. Census workers to share information about respondents. While it is crucial to emphasize this message, it is important not to patronize immigrant families. They have reasonable fears that the Trump administration will break the law, as is evidenced by multiple legal challenges to past policies and practices regarding immigrants.

*Exhibit C*

- b. There is no citizenship question. Pro-immigrant organizations fought and won to ensure this. These organizations will continue to challenge any other illegal attempts to obtain or misuse confidential information.
  - c. Messages about funding or political representation linked to an accurate Census count should be personalized and community-specific. Some communities have identified needs that others may not have. Local organizations can help fine tune messaging.
- 6. Ensure digital and social media outreach, radio advertisements, direct mail, etc. are available in Spanish and have community-specific messaging.
- 7. Recruit community partners such as churches, ESL and citizenship classes, credit unions, local businesses, schools, and mobile consulates to help deliver information. Combine Census outreach with other nonpartisan outreach and community education activities such as know-your-rights, citizenship and financial literacy workshops, etc.

**Cómite de Inmigración de la Ciudad de  
Santa Fé Subcómite de Educación**

**Invita**

**Segundo Conversatorio de la Comunidad  
de Habla Hispana (Español) con**

**Dra. Veronica Garcia**

**Superintendente de ls Escuela Públicas de  
Santa Fé – S.F.P.S**

**Miércoles 4 de Diciembre de 2019**

**Biblioteca de la Escuela Capital High**

**5:30 a 7:00 PM**

**Todos están invitados**



*Exhibit D.*



PARENTS ARE  
INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE

# BILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 16, January 8, March 11  
5:30-7:00 PM

#### **Bilingual Multicultural Parent Advisory Council Defined:**

Establish a parent advisory committee to monitor and evaluate the language and culture of the district, to assist and advise on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the bilingual/multicultural education program, and provide procedures to ensure that parents are notified in a timely manner prior to bilingual/multicultural educational programs. (NMSA 20-2-6.6(A); NMAC 6-32-2-12)

#### **Role of Bilingual Multicultural Advisory Council:**

Parents are invited with their children to district meetings. All district meetings will be conducted in Spanish and English. The multicultural education program will be the focus of the meetings. A written commitment to attend an interval of the meetings is required. Parents are also invited to a parent advisory committee to monitor the effectiveness of the program and to advise of the district plan and make appropriate recommendations to the district. (NMSA 20-2-6.5)

Meetings will be located at the B.F. Young Building  
1001 Camino del Rio Santa Fe, NM 87505

SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
610 ALTA VISTA STREET,  
SANTA FE, NM 87505  
PHONE (505) 467-2000

*Exhibit E*

**RODRIGUEZ, BRIAN J.**

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**From:** PFEIFER, JESSICA E.  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** RODRIGUEZ, BRIAN J.  
**Subject:** UVisa

<b>YTD U-Visa Applications</b>	<b>2019</b>
Approved	25
Denied	5
Pending	1
Total	31

As of 10/31/19.

Jessica Pfeifer, Administrative Manager  
Santa Fe Police Department  
2515 Camino Entrada  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
505-955-5074



*Exhibit F*