



Agenda

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Immigration Committee

March 1, 2011 – 5:45 p.m.
City Councilors' Conference Room
City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 11, 2011
- IV. Announcements
- V. Community Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Report on County and City Resolutions
 - b. Santa Fe County Detention Center Update
 - c. State legislative report
- VII. New Business
 - a. Rev. Chester Topple's visit to Cuba
 - b. Governor's Executive Order
 - c. Southside planning strategies
- VIII. Communications from Staff
- IX. Communications from Committee
- X. Adjourn

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IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
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March 1, 2011

Agenda Items	Action	Page No.
Cover Sheet		1
Roll Call	A quorum was declared by roll call, 2 excused absences	1
Approval of Agenda	<i>Ms. Hemmer moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Rivera motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	1
Approval of Minutes: 1/11/11	Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2011 Corrections: Page 4 – family’s should be families Hurado should be Jurado <i>Mr. Rivera moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Mr. Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	1
Announcements	Informational	2
Community Comments	None	2
Old Business a. Report on County and City Resolution b. Santa Fe County Detention Center Update c. State Legislative Report	<i>Deferred to next month meeting</i>	2
New Business Report on trip to Cuba by Chester Topple	Rev. Topple presented a narrated slide show on his pulpit exchange trip to Cuba.	3-4
New Business Governor’s Executive Order Southside Planning Strategies	Informational Miguel Angel Acosta will chair next meeting and this item will be discussed at that time.	4
Communications from Committee	Informational	5
Adjourn and Signature Page	The Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm	5

Immigration Committee
Minutes
March 1, 2011
5:45 pm – 7:15 pm

I. Call to order

Betty Shinas, Acting Chair called the regular meeting of the Immigration Committee to order at 6:00 pm on February 1, 2011 in City Councilor's Conference Room, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. Roll call

Fran Lucero, Stenographer conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Betty Shinas, Acting Chair
Rev. Chester Topple
Elizabeth Hemmer
Amparo Guerrero
Erwin Rivera
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca
Miguel Angel Acosta

Absent:

Maria Cristina Lopez, Excused
Marcela Diaz

Others Present:

Carla Lopez, Staff Liaison
Captain Gerald Rivera
Fran Lucero, Stenographer
Amiee Garza, Research Intern with SOMOS

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hemmer moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Rivera motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Approval of minutes from January 11, 2011 meeting

Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2011
Corrections: Page 4 – family's should be families
Huradø should be Jurado

Mr. Rivera moved to approve the minutes as amended, second by Mr. Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

V. Announcements

Mr. Rivera reported that the presentation by Ms. Cipriana Jurado at the Santa Fe Community College was extremely successful and well received.

Mr. Rivera announced the Dream Act Congress will be held in Tennessee. There is one student who will be able to attend. His name is Juan Carlos and he is willing to attend and report back to the Immigration Committee. He is asking for contributions/funding to make this trip, he is in need of about \$200.

Chester Topples said that they will be meeting at St. Bede's to hopefully reach out to the immigration population through accompaniment. It would be individual volunteers who could help take them to the doctor, help be a spokesperson at their appointments and help them in other ways.

Chester Topples said that Good Friday is also International Earth Day and they are planning a march to Santuario. They would like to set up stations that would help identify our connection to mother earth. He also said that they would like to have people set up some booths for water and food for those doing the walk.

Miguel Angel Acosta said that they have funds to do a family training. They are finalizing the curriculum and will be able to accommodate about 25-30 families and it will be held over 4 Saturday's, full day sessions. The sessions will focus primarily on how to build a family and how to set and accomplish goals.

Amparo Guerrero spoke of a forum on women's human rights. March 8th is Women's International Day; if you can speak about this day in your organizations it is creating the awareness that is needed. This year commemorates 100 years for Women's International Day. Ms. Guerrero said that they are seeing more and more of the immigrant population experiencing economic problems in the community. The problem with driver's licenses is a hardship and creating domestic violence cases. There are not enough resources in our community to help the young people in our community. What can we do to support these kinds of problems in our community right now?

VI. Community Comments

None

VII. Old Business – Ms. Diaz will report at next month meeting due to her absence and attendance at the NM State Legislature.

- a) Report on County and City Resolutions
- b) Santa Fe County Detention Center Update
- c) State Legislative Update

VIII. New Business

a) **Rev. Chester Topples' visit to Cuba.**

(Slide show from Cuba)

Rev. Dean Lewis, a long time friend of Rev. Topples is the pastor in Cuba. He and Rev. Topples did a pulpit exchange for 30-days. Rev. Topples referred to Cuba as "the jewel of the Caribbean." The community is very invested in nature. (The statue of José Martí overlooks the Swiss Embassy where the US Embassy is located and he is holding Elian Gonzales as a baby.) Some people may refer to the church as persecuted as there was discouragement to be a part of any congregation. After the Pope came in the 1990's there was more of an openness to participate in their religion. Food is so much a part of their daily life. They used the Pastor's ration card which afforded them bread every day and milk every other day. Your ration card would indicate what kind of diet you needed to be in good health. They cooked slow food, beans and rice. If you were a guest at anyone's home, they would provide a meat dish. Rev. Topples showed a residential/commercial street and said he couldn't emphasize how safe it was. You could sense how safe it was. Social service agencies are very important in Cuba. One of the agencies was Casa de los Abuelos; it was for elderly people who could no longer take care of themselves. It was similar to a retirement home but they would get there for the day, and they would get breakfast, lunch and dinner. The day that Rev. Topples was there he found that everyone at the Casa de los Abuelos were born in that town and would die in that town. They were proud of where they are and are close to their families. There was a healthy society and they knew about each other and bonded with each other. The average salary is about \$16.50 to \$25.00 a month. There were very little drugs or very little alcohol abuse it just wasn't evident. Homelessness in a town of 60,000 people – almost non-existent. The residents took pride in the condition of their blocks and they all pulled together to be sure that everyone was ok. One day he was asked to go to the Immigration office and he was asked as to what he was doing there. Once Rev. Topples explained the purpose of his trip the authorities also wanted to assure that the visit was successful. There is a generality of people who are depressed, they know what their situation is but they also know they can't change things as much as they would like. They work very hard to keep their community together. They don't have as many materialistic things as they would like and it shows how we have so much and we buy and buy and they are content with what they have. They say that 80% of their food is imported which Rev. Topples thought it might be the beans and rice. They don't have many cars. Communication and language is so respectful and the values through their programs were highly esteemed. Rev. Topples asked them about immigration and their response was, "we are an island and we can control."

It is humbling to preach in a society that he was learning so much about. "When I preached about pobre Lázaro, I had to tell a story about a man in Atlanta to make

the connection.” Lazaro was homeless so references had to be made for them to identify with the example given of the homeless man in Atlanta. Their ideas of boundaries are very different and for the Reverend in Cuba he said availability was a priority and need. A phone call to the church would demonstrate urgency and you would act quickly when you received a call in need.

Consuelo from Rev. Topple’s congregation spoke about the experience with the Rev. from Cuba. Much of what was being offered here in the United States was too much and they reached a point of not being accepting because this is now what they got in Cuba. One of the major forms of earning in Cuba is the tourist industry. She has been lucky to be in Cuba, there is poverty but it is not misery. Cuba in some ways is very good and in other ways it is very hard. There are pro’s and con’s and Maria was shocked in the waste of the Americans. In Cuba they require one year of maternity leave.

Erwin Rivera said that Dr. Angel from Las Vegas, NM and possibly the SFCC would be interested in have Rev. Topple make his presentation.

b) Governor’s Executive Order

Aimee Garza, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University of California at Santa Cruz and Intern at SOMOS drafted a statement regarding the Executive Order and the 1999 City of Santa Fe resolution that prohibits the use of local resources to identify or detain individuals on the sole basis of their immigration status and how it relates to Santa Fe as a sanctuary city; which Santa Fe is not. SOMOS is very concerned about the Executive Order and the 1999 Resolution. The Mayor has responded on behalf of the City of Santa Fe. It was recommended that this document be used as talking points.

Captain Rivera commented and said that the Santa Fe City Police Department are adhering to all city policy policies and are not investing any resources to seek State Police assistance on immigration matters. Santa Fe City Police has a policy and they do not ask for immigration status.

Ms. Hemmer expressed her thanks for the stand of the City Police Department regarding immigration.

c) Southside Planning Strategies

Miguel Angel Acosta will chair next month’s meeting and Southside Planning Strategies would be discussed at that time.

IX. Communications from Staff

None

X. Communications from Committee Members

Ms. Diaz sent the message that a hearing would be held on Thursday morning at 8:00 am on driver's licenses.

XI. Adjournment

Rev. Topple moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm, second by Ms. Hemmer, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes submitted by: Fran Lucero, Stenographer



Minutes approved by: Betty Shinas, Acting Chair
