



Agenda

DATE 8/8/13 TIME 3:47pm

SERVED BY Terrie Rodriguez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

**Immigration Committee
August 13, 2013
Historic Preservation Conference Room
Second Floor, City Hall
4:15pm to 6:00pm**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. July 22, 2013
4. Announcements
5. Community Comments
6. Old Business
 - a. Immigration reform status update - Marcela Diaz, Committee Member (Andrew Black, if present)
 - b. Feedback on Letter to USCIS Abq Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update – Alejandra Seluja
 - c. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February 2013 – Maria Cristina Lopez
7. New Business
 - a. Communication Procedure During Meetings
 - b. Staff Information on LEAD and Transitional School progress
8. Communications from Staff
9. Communications from Committee
10. Next Meeting and Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520 five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**Index Summary of Minutes
Immigration Committee
August 13, 2013**

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
Cover Page		1
Call to Order	A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Immigration Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm by the Chair, Alejandra Seluja.	2
Roll Call	A quorum was not present.	2
Approval of Agenda	<i>No action taken for lack of quorum.</i>	2
Approval of Minutes July 22, 2013	<i>No action taken for lack of quorum.</i>	2
Announcements	Informational	2
Community Comments	None	2
Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immigration Reform Status Update b. Letter to UCIS Albuquerque Project Director, Patty Reynolds c. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February 2013 	Informational, no formal action taken.	3-4
New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Meeting Process b. Staff Information on LEAD and Transitional School Progress 	Informational, no formal action taken	4-5
Communications from Staff	None	6
Communications from Committee	None	6
Signature Page and Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm	6

CITY OF SANTA FE

Immigration Committee

Minutes – August 13, 2013


Fran Lucero, Stenographer

Draft Until Approved

Immigration Committee
MINUTES
August 13, 2013 – 4:15 p.m. – 5:15 pm

1. Roll Call

Alejandra Seluja, Chair for the Immigration Committee called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum did not exist. The Committee chose to conduct an informal business meeting.

Present:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair
Marcela Diaz
Elizabeth Hemmer
Cecilia Tadfoor

Not Present

Maria Cristina Lopez, Excused
Cara Esquibel
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca
Amparo Guerrero

Others Present

Dale Lettenberger, Captain, Santa Fe Police Department
Terrie Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
Anna Serrano for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of Agenda

No action due to lack of quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes

July 22, 2013
No action due to lack of quorum.

4. Announcements

Captain Dale Lettenberger was introduced. Captain Lettenberger will take over for Captain Aric Wheeler who is retiring.

Ms. Diaz asked that the Committee consider some type of appreciation for Captain Wheeler's retirement.

5. Community Comments

6. Old Business

- a. Immigration Reform Status Update – Marcela Diaz, Committee Member (Andrew Black, Senator Heinrich’s Office) (Exhibit A – Immigration Fix a Priority for New Mexico Article)

The Senate passed a bi-partisan bill, Comprehensive Reform Bill on June 27, 2013 and it passed by 68 votes. It is known formally as the Border Security Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act. The Congressional Budget office is non-partisan and scores bills and looks at the economic impacts, said that the Senate Bill over the next 10 years would reduce the deficit by \$197 billion dollars and then another \$700 billion additionally beyond that over the next 20 years. The path to citizenship which is included in it was a major area of strong hold for the Democrats, which was an area they were not willing to compromise. The Dream Act was the expeditious formal path to citizenship. There is a lot of talk about increasing and extending the high tech visas, particularly the STEM visas. The Senator introduced a bill early on dealing with those issues, some of the challenges around the STEM work force development. They would need to increase those. The challenge in our country is a lot around STEM education and particularly around Engineers, we don’t have enough Engineers and we cannot meet that demand. One of the things to note and didn’t get a lot of media is that they tack on \$1000 fee to the employer – if you are going to go and get a high tech visa they tacked on \$1000 fee that would be paid for by the employer to go towards STEM education. 20% of that money from that \$1000 fee is actually going to go to Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI’s) or minority serving institutions, black college universities, HSI’s. It is a good way to fund education money and help enhance the training of people here in our state and in our country and to make sure that money is going towards education. The Senator introduced three amendments to the Immigration Reform Bill; 1) Santa Teresa to increase the hours of the courts, 2) renovation of the courts in Columbus and 3) the path to citizenship requires training in civics and the English language. Unfortunately these amendments were blocked on the floor. One area of challenges; there is a last minute amendment that came in trying to increase the amount of border agent/border security funding and it was a substantial amount of money and personnel increase. One of the challenges is; what does that mean for New Mexico? We are not considered a high priority risk zone.

Ms. Hemmer asked about the law that states if you had been a resident for 20 years or 15 years or a certain age you could take the test in your own language; does this block that. Mr. Black said that it is technical, the language that was put in the bill states that the requirement is to learn English. There was a strong push to make it English only, so there are different ways on it can be interpreted. Ms. Hemmer stated that for example there are 60 or 70 year olds who want to be citizens but don’t speak the language.

Mr. Black stated that the hope is that this will move to conference and that the House will be encouraged to do something. Mr. Black encouraged that the

constituency and the members of the committee contact the House members to get this in to debate in the house and on to Conference.

Ms. Diaz added that there are more agricultural workers in the State of New Mexico than there are students eligible for the Dream Act and the Senate Bill not only provided a fast track for citizenship for Dream Students but also the agricultural workers. This is significant for New Mexico; having just come back from two town halls with Congressman Pearce and many of our dairy and peanut factory workers. Congressman Pearce has had two town hall meetings in the eastern part of the state. He kindly thanked the immigrant population for their work. There were 50 families in Eunice and even more in Portales, NM. There will be two more town halls, the next one to be in Las Cruces. SOMOS is committed to go to all of the community town halls.

- b. Feedback on Letter to USCIS Albuquerque Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update – Alejandra Seluja
- c. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February, 2013 – Maria Cristina Lopez

Captain Lettenberger said that he does have information on the complaint. An investigation was conducted and there were some violations found on the policy and disciplinary corrective actions were taken. Unfortunately, no additional information can be provided. Captain Lettenberger added that this individual had received numerous traffic violations and in the process of these violations it came back with a detainer that said warrant; this was information received from NCIC. The arrest and booking was made on this basis, he was stopped for legitimate reasons.

Ms. Diaz said that when these complaints are done as bias based police complaints they get sent to the AGs office and she asked if they have been sent to the Attorney General's office. Mr. Lettenberger will check on this and report at the next meeting. Captain Lettenberger reiterated that it is their policy, once they investigate the case they send it to the Attorney General's office.

7. New Business

- a. Communication Procedure During Meetings

The Chair stated that when meetings are conducted that have a lot of attendees she asked how they should acknowledge those who would like to speak. Ms. Hemmer said that in Parliamentary Procedures the person who would like to speak should be acknowledged before speaking. Ms. Hemmer also suggested having a time limit set for those who want to talk. Ms. Rodriguez said that she can pull the Rules and Conduct for all committees. Ms. Diaz said that the Chair always needs to recognize the person who wants to speak. If this is the conduct then the procedure should be followed.

b. Staff Information on LEAD and Transitional School Progress

Ms. Rodriguez has been working on the project, Transitional School. Superintendent Boyd has been addressing how to help our children and referring to it as the twilight school. Santa Fe has had through different times an Alternative School and for the last 7-8 years we have not had this school. Councilor Dominguez is supporting the Transitional School concept. Ms. Rodriguez spoke of the involvement with Regional Juvenile Justice Committee and with the groups that the Children and Youth Committee provide financial support. There will be assessments of what the children's needs are and what the needs of the family are. There is also a Day Reporting Program; these are kids who cannot be enrolled in a school due to their violations. We are looking at health care, how we can help these kids; for example, some kids haven't had their eyes examined for 5-10 years, some have not been to the dentist, we want to provide them with programs and help. The school location being considered is Zona del Sol on the south side. They would be getting their credits recovered; they would receive case management with the goal to transition back to school. The organizations are not being offered more money for the services they provide but we are asking that they expand their services to these children.

Ms. Rodriguez talked about the new program called REACH, this is a federal grant that La Familia received. They are charged to do some educational outreach to Spanish speakers and it is going to be around issues of healthy living, choosing fresh fruit and vegetables as well as encouraging biking and walking. Their grant isn't really for programs but it is to do outreach and education.

That State has been doing what they refer to as Community With Care which focuses on behavioral health. It is mental health as well as substance abuse issues. The idea is to provide mental health and behavioral services for the child to find what they need and what is available.

The LEAD program has been very time intense; this is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program. This program has been working for about 9 months or so; a formal recommendation has been produced and presented to the City Council where we received the approval to go ahead with the next steps of the LEAD program. That is to develop a program for low level opiate abusers, substance users to go through a pre-booking diversion program where they would not be put in to jail but they would be given the opportunity for services and treatment. The charges would be held, they would not be getting away but they would have to comply with the process of their treatment before the charges could go away. The idea is to keep a person who is addicted to opiates to obtain treatment before they would end up as an example, losing their family or their jobs. It is being modeled after a program that is happening in Seattle. Santa Fe is looking at research on 100 people in the last 3-years that would have qualified for this program. Ms. Rodriguez provided statistical and cost information for this program.

8. Communications from Staff
9. Communications from Committee
10. Next Meeting and Adjourn

There being no further information to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Signature Page:



Alejandra Seluja, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer

Subject:

FW: Op-Ed: Immigration fix a priority for New Mexico

Immigration fix a priority for New Mexico

By. U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich

Posted: 08/04/2013 01:00:00 AM MDT

New Mexico's remarkable spirit is rooted in our diversity, our history, and our culture, which has always been enriched by our immigrant communities and family members. At the same time, the laws that govern our country's immigration system are antiquated and ineffective.

Fixing our broken immigration system is an urgent priority -- especially for our state.

Earlier this summer, we took action in the Senate to do something about it. We found common ground and passed a pragmatic and bipartisan bill that includes a visa system that meets the needs of our economy, a tough but fair path to earned citizenship for the estimated 11 million people in our country who are undocumented, and a plan that ensures security at our borders.

We are especially pleased that the Senate bill provides a special pathway to citizenship to the undocumented children of immigrants. We have met many of these students, known as DREAMers. They represent much of what's best about our nation: hard work, motivation, and a willingness to serve this country in uniform. DREAMers are bright, inspiring, and most of them don't know how to be anything but an American. Under the Senate bill, these students would be able to gain more education and training, which translates into better and higher-paying jobs. All of these extra wages will circulate through the economy, spurring economic growth and new job creation.

However, the Republican-led House has failed to act on a similarly comprehensive overhaul, and as a result, is failing the American people. Despite support from various Republican leaders including former President George W. Bush, Senator John McCain, and Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist, the lack of consensus among House Republicans is disappointing. Instead of coming together to do what's right, what's fair, and what the majority of Americans support, House Republicans are looking for every excuse to put up roadblocks, kill the progress we have made, and demonize immigrants.

There's been a lot of commentary in the news lately about how to "win the Hispanic vote." Fixing our broken immigration system is so much more than that -- especially for a border state like ours.

A more efficient immigration and visa system will provide our employers the workforce they need and build our economy, while also protecting American jobs and wages. Our current visa program makes it difficult for farmers to hire the workers they need and sends some of our most talented students back to their countries of origin where they find themselves competing against American jobs rather than helping to create American jobs. And the labor pool comprised of millions of undocumented people allows for worker exploitation and low wages.

EXHIBIT 'A'

The independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its report showing that passing the Senate bipartisan immigration reform bill would reduce budget deficits by \$197 billion over the next decade, and about \$700 billion in the second decade.

The recent CBO report offers compelling evidence that accountable immigration reform is good for our economy, our workforce, and the future of our middle class. It debunks the notion from critics that reform would hurt our economy. These numbers also make clear that passing accountable immigration reform would not only reduce the deficit, but also substantially increase our country's GDP.

This is encouraging data, and it affirms our commitment to creating a fair immigration system that keeps families together, encourages our science, technology, engineering, and mathematics leaders to be future entrepreneurs, while continuing to strengthen our border security.

We have made great advances in border security in recent years. We have more agents, technology and infrastructure devoted to our border than ever before. Our challenge moving forward is to continue to ensure our nation's safety, while balancing the need of our border communities to thrive and benefit from their unique bi-national culture and economy. However, in the Paso del Norte region, which includes West Texas and southern New Mexico, not all of our ports of entry are operating at full capacity and the high volume of vehicles attempting to cross at the ports of entry makes it extremely difficult for Customs and Border Protection to efficiently service all would-be crossers while also maintaining security.

To this end, we are working to improve infrastructure at the Columbus Port of Entry and to extend the hours of operation at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry. Longer hours and updated facilities would lead to more efficient trade between the United States and Mexico, grow our economy, create new jobs, and invest in border security efforts at our nation's ports.

On the subject of increased commerce, we'd like to thank Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano for doing her part. Last month, she announced a plan to extend the border commercial zone in southern New Mexico. This initiative was initially spearheaded by former U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman at the federal level and it received bipartisan unanimous support in the New Mexico State Legislature. Increasing the number of visitors traveling to the region will help U.S. businesses, local economies, and bring in more tax revenue.

When it comes to fixing our nation's immigration system, the Senate has shown that compromise and even bipartisanship are possible. Our country is strong because of rigorous debate -- but debate doesn't mean endless gridlock. Despite our differences, this is an issue on which both parties can come together and find common ground.

New Mexicans are eager for a solution, DREAM Act students deserve a solution, and our economy requires a solution. We must achieve accountable immigration reform that works for New Mexico and the country, and we call on the House Republicans to pass the Senate bipartisan proposal. *Este es el año.*

Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich represent New Mexico in the U.S. Senate. Both are Democrats.