



Agenda

DATE 9/30/13 TIME 8:55a

SERVED BY Terrie Rodriguez

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**Immigration Committee
September 3, 2013
Councilors' Conference Room
City Hall
4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. July 22, 2013
 - b. Information Meeting August 13, 2013
4. Announcements
5. Community Comments
6. Old Business
 - a. Immigration reform status update - Marcela Diaz
 - b. Feedback on Letter to USCIS Abq Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update – Alejandra Seluja
7. New Business
 - a. Same-sex Marriage Impact on Immigrant Couples Communication Procedure During Meetings – Alejandra Seluja and Marcela Diaz
 - b. City Ban on Plastic Bags How do We Educate Immigrant Population About this Change – Alejandra Seluja
 - c. Report on CAC (Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee) – Maria Cristina Lopez
 - d. Committee's Participation in Celebration of Mexican Independence Day – Maria Cristina Lopez
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
September 3, 2013**

INDEX	ACTION TAKEN	PAGE(S)
Cover Page		1
Call to Order	A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Immigration Committee was called to order at 4:15 pm by the Chair, Alejandra Seluja.	2
Roll Call	A quorum was present.	2
Approval of Agenda	<i>Lopez moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	1
Approval of Minutes	<p>July 22, 2013 <i>Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the minutes of July 22, 2013 as presented, second by Ms. Cara Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p>August 13, 2013 <i>Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the informational meeting minutes of August 13, 2013 where no action was taken due to lack of quorum, second by Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p><i>Cara Esquibel noted that Andrew Black was in attendance at the August 13th meeting.</i></p>	2
Announcements	Informational	2-3
Old Business:		3
a. Immigration Reform Status Update	Informational	

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b. Feedback on Letter of USCIS Albuquerque Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update	Staff Follow Up	
New Business a. Same sex marriage impact on immigrant Couples communication procedure during meetings b. City Ban on Plastic Bags c. Report on CAC d. Committee's participation in celebration of Mexican Independence Day	<i>Informational, no formal action taken</i>	3-4
Communications from Staff	Informational	4
Communications from Committee	Informational	5
Signature Page and Adjournment Next Meeting – October 1 st at 4:30 pm	The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm by the Chair.	5

Immigration Committee

MINUTES

September 3, 2013

4:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Alejandra Seluja, Chair for the Immigration Committee called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm, City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum was declared at 4:30 pm.

Present:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair
Maria Cristina Lopez
Elizabeth Hemmer
Cecilia Tadfoor
Cara Esquibel
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca

Not Present

Marcela Diaz, Excused
Amparo Guerrero, Excused

Others Present

Chris Sanchez, Staff
Anna Serrano for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of Agenda

Recommended to remove 7-a under New Business.

Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

July 22, 2013

Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the minutes of July 22, 2013 as presented, second by Ms. Cara Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

August 13, 2013

Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the informational meeting minutes of August 13, 2013 where no action was taken due to lack of quorum, second by Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Cara Esquibel noted that Andrew Black was in attendance at the August 13th meeting.

4. Announcements

September 7th, Legal Clinic at Ortiz Middle School from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Maria Cristina Lopez talked about the work skills and concerns that Immigrant workers might have. They need to know that they have recourse available to them. It was suggested that they can call SOMOS for advice. Cara Esquibel said it would be nice to have a Spanish resource list of who people can call when they need help.

5. Community Comments

None

6. Old Business

a. Immigration Reform Status Update – Marcela Diaz (not present)

The Senate has approved a bill. Ms. Esquibel said that she has a concern on deferred action.

The Chair asked if everyone was familiar with the deportation waiver. She stated that last year there was a waiver signed for hardships. Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez said that the Immigration Lawyers are helping people with deportation waivers when they can prove hardship but they have to wait until they are deported. The Chair said that she would send the committee the waiver material available and place this item on the next month agenda for discussion. The Chair will also send the power point presentation sent by Andrew Black from Senator Heinrich's office.

b. Feedback on Letter to USCIS Albuquerque Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update – Alejandra Seluja

The Committee members did not receive the letter to review; the Chair will send the letter to the Committee members for review and discussion at next meeting. Chief Schilling has retired; the letter will need to be addressed to Chief Kassetas.

7. New Business

a. Same-sex marriage impact on immigrant couples communication procedure during meetings. (Discussion at last meeting, removed from agenda).

It was noted that the marriages are not recognized federally at this time. The Chair recommended that the Immigration Lawyers, Victoria or Alegra be invited to the next meeting.

b. City Ban on Plastic Bags - How do we educate immigrant population about this change? Ms. Lopez said that one way might be through the schools. Ms. Esquibel recommended that a flyer be prepared and presented to the SFPS. Mr. Sanchez, Staff Liaison said he has a good relationship with Superintendent Boyd and would ask about the possibilities. The Chair said that the city will be giving recycled bags. Mr. Sanchez will get more information and report at the next meeting.

- c. Report on CAC (Santa Fe County Corrections Advisory Committee) – Maria Cristina Lopez

Ms. Lopez said the purpose of this committee is to be a connection, a bridge with the community so that families that have questions or issues with their family in jail or the detention center, Youth Development Project, can come to the committee and discuss with them. Ms. Lopez said her interest is civil rights for everybody and specifically for immigrants. Many of the individuals who come in to the detention center have 80% mental health issues, 65% need a lot of help to include medical help. The committee members have visited the facilities to become familiar with the population and services. Ms. Lopez has also extended an invitation to Sheriff Adan Mendoza to visit as a guest to the Immigration Committee.

- d. Committee's Participation in Celebration of Mexican Independence Day – Maria Cristina Lopez

A proclamation has been requested from the Mayor's Office, it is held on the 14th of September at Ragle Park. Additional information will be sent to the committee.

8. Communications from Staff

Mr. Sanchez said that he has worked with kids for many years. 44-50% of the kids in SFPS have dropped out. Mr. Sanchez explained the new program that the City, County and SFPS are working on for an alternative school. This program will be in the south side at the Zona del Sol. It is a project where the community will need to gather together along with the federal, state, city, county and SFPS representatives to make this work. The Voices for Children report ranks New Mexico as 50th. One example and goal is to teach our children in the language that they can learn. We assume that they understand and they don't. The health and education of these children along with parent support is important.

The Committee commended Chris for working diligently on this program.

Ms. Esquibel asked what the anticipated enrollment is if there are only 2 teachers at this time? Mr. Sanchez said that they will not start up with a huge enrollment.

Ms. Lopez asked how the families will be involved. Mr. Sanchez said that is going to be critical to get the families involved. Ms. Lopez said it is important to empower the parents.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca commended the efforts and time spent on this incredible program that is badly needed. Hopefully our youth/immigrants can achieve good quality of life and that they find someone to believe in them.

9. Communications from Committee

It was noted that in the future Robert Rules of Order should be followed. The Chair should recognize those who want to speak on a subject in order to keep order to the meeting and to allow everyone an opportunity to speak.

10. Next Meeting and Adjourn

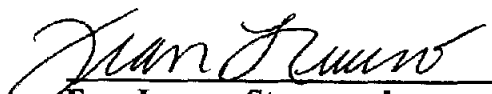
Next meeting will be October 1, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Ms. Cabeza asked that the discussion on NM as a sanctuary state be placed on the agenda at next month meeting. Arizona and California are getting an influx of immigrants and are running out of space.

There being no further information to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Signature Page:


Alejandra Schuja, Chair


Fran Lucero, Stenographer