

Immigration Committee
January 7, 2014
500 Market Station, Suite 200
Engine Conference Room
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of Minutes December 3, 2013
- 4. Mayoral Candidate Guests: Javier Gonzales
- 5. Guest Speakers: Mr. Garcia and Mr. Rivera
- 6. Announcements
- 7. Community Comments
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Update Immigration Reform at the Federal Level
 - b. Same-Sex Marriage Immigration Rights
- 9. New Business
 - a. Mayoral Candidate Presentation Javier Gonzales
 - b. Discussion on which Items to Keep Ongoing During 2014
 - c. Presentation to City Council regarding the Committee's Activities
- 10. Communications from Staff
- 11. Communications from Committee
- 12. 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.

IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE INDEX JANUARY 7, 2014

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Call to Order and Roll Call	The Immigration Committee meeting was convened by the Chair at 4:30 pm, Market Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum was declared by roll call at 4:47 pm	Page 2
Approval of Agenda Agenda amended to hear Mr. Javier Gonzales, #4 first on the agenda after introductions. Amend agenda to discuss the creation of a questionnaire for the city council candidates. This item was suggested at the last meeting.	Ms. Diaz moved to approve the Agenda as amended, second by Ms. Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	Page 2
Approval of Minutes December 3, 2013 Corrections: Los Companeros should be Los Campanario	Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2013 as corrected, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	Page 7
Presentation by Mayoral Candidate, Javier Gonzales	Informational	Page 3-7
Guest Speaker: Mr. Rivera, the New Mexican	Informational	Page 7-10
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Old Business Update Immigration Reform at the Federal Level Same Sex Marriage – Immigration Rights	Informational	Page 10
New Business a. Mayoral Candidate Presentation (above) b. Discussion on which items to keep ongoing during 2014 c. Discussion on Questionnaire	Questionnaire: Immigrant families make up 14% of Santa Fe and are an essential part of the local work force. Many of these workers are often not paid for all of their work; they are not paid overtime and not paid Santa Fe minimum wage, what can the city do to insure vigorous enforcement of	Page 10 - 12

the city minimum wage for all workers in Santa Fe?

According to the recent statewide study, 1 of 4 immigrant workers are not paid fairly. We know that many of them are not being paid the Santa Fe living wage, what can the City do insure workers enforcement?

Over 50% of new businesses are licenses are stopped by immigrant entrepreneurs, what can the city do to facilitate the process for immigrants, especially Spanish speaking immigrants to become successful business owners and job creators and how do you see the growing immigrant community as a partner in economic development efforts for the city?

Public safety has improved because of the city's policy of insuring that the employees including local police officers are not inquiring about work force and civil immigration law, how committed are you to this policy and what can city government do to make mixed immigrant families feel safer to participate in community policing and safety efforts?

d. Presentation to City
Council regarding the
Committee's Activities

Ms. Esquibel will send an education question by e-mail to Ms. Diaz.

Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the questions as listed above to distribute to the City Councilors, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous vote, one abstention.

	Ms. Diaz moved to table item 9-d, second by Ms. Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.	
Communications from Staff	None	Page 12
Communications from Committee	Informational and referred to Santa Fe City Police	Page 12
Next Meeting	February 4, 2014, 4:30 pm	Page 12
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm	Page 12
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IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE JANUARY 7, 2014 Market Street Offices, Santa Fe, NM 4:30 pm - 6:25 pm

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. A quorum was established at 4:47 pm.

Present:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair Cara Esquibel Jewel Cabeza de Vaca Amparo Guerrero Marcela Diaz

Not Present:

Elizabeth Hemmer, Excused Maria Cristina Lopez, Excused Cecilia Tadfor, Excused

Others Present

JoAnn Tapia
Frances C. Rios
Dale Lettenberger, Santa Fe Police Department
Jeff Ethan Green, City Council Candidate
Javier Gonzales, Mayoral Candidate
Ray Rivera, Editor, The New Mexican
Alma Castro, SOMOS
Reyes Burclager, SOMOS
Adda E. Sallard
Lucinda Vigil

Terrie Rodriguez, Staff Liaison Chris Sanchez, Staff Anna Serrano for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

Introduction of Guests and reflected in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to hear Mr. Javier Gonzales, #4 first on the agenda after introductions. Amend agenda to discuss the creation of a questionnaire for the city council candidates. This item was suggested at the last meeting.

Ms. Diaz moved to approve the Agenda as amended, second by Ms. Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Mayoral Candidate Guests: Javier Gonzales

Chair Seluja welcomed Mr. Gonzales to the Immigration Committee meeting as a candidate for Mayor.

Javier Gonzales

Thank you for this opportunity to be here and to answer questions from the Immigration Committee and expressed his thank you to the committee for the important work that they do. One of the things that we have known over 400 years of history in Santa Fe is that our weakest moment has been when we haven't been able to celebrate multiple cultures in our community. We have been able to survive and recognize that as a community, through diversity we are able to grow, stay together and move forward. When you look at what is happening today in Santa Fe, that opportunity exists again and it has existed for many years. The opportunity to show that through multiple cultures we can be stronger and we have to work diligently to make sure that we don't divide our communities. We don't want to give our people to live fearful in our community. We want everyone in Santa Fe to know that they belong in this community. Mr. Gonzales said he is running for Mayor of Santa Fe because he believes that we can be one community; we can be a community that is for everybody. No matter where you are from, we want the children in our community to get the best education that can be afforded to them. Given the opportunity to be the Mayor of Santa Fe is to extend a hand of partnership that you have extended. That is important because of the work done by the Immigration Committee and organizations like SOMOS and other many other non-profits to bring about education and services to both our immigrant community and those who live here. Mr. Gonzales wants to be a Mayor that understands the importance of bringing communities together and finding ways that we can continue to celebrate our diversity. "Through the course of my own experience I had the opportunity to be President of the National Association of Counties. The next Mayor needs to take an active role nationally; being able to get into the debate on comprehensive immigration reform. I believe that through my experience and the relationships that I have had at the national level, that I am uniquely qualified to get involved with the US Conference of Mayor's joining along with Julian Castro and other US Mayors who recognize that through federal immigration policy we can strengthen our communities and we can make sure that the issue of immigration is dealt with appropriately by the Congress and that it is done in a very positive manner. I sit on the Board of Regents at the New Mexico State University; I am a proponent and supporter of the Dreamers who will come out as graduates of New Mexico State University. We need to continue as a state to afford opportunities to embrace Dreamers and make sure that there are pathways in our community so they can continue to be a part of it." Mr. Gonzales said that we have to constantly celebrate the multiple languages in our community. Growing up in Santa Fe, one regret he has the most is that his parents who are fluent in Spanish spoke the language but did not influence it on the children. Now the challenge and father of two children is to teach his children a second language. Mr. Gonzales feels that our city has been through the help of this committee, SOMOS and others, a leader when it comes to valuing and respecting, bringing dignity to people who come to our community, we need to continue to do that. We need to focus on areas

like wage theft and making sure that people working in our community are given the dignity of the same fair pay and if they are not we need to be incredibly strong in responding and that people are accountable for wage theft and we have to continue to make sure services are available for all families in our community. I do know that 1,500 of our kids in our community are homeless and many of them come out of the immigrant population and we have to make sure that services are there and to assure that families can access to transition housing and have access to employment and that their kids are given a positive environment to be successful in school. Thank you for what you are doing, I am open for questions.

Cara Esquibel – Education Representative on Immigration Committee. Looking at the grim statistics of our ELL students, there are 14,000 students in Santa Fe public schools and approximately 30% are immigrant students. When you look at the data for these students they are some of the lowest in the state. They start off the lowest from the perspective of standardized based testing in the 3rd grade but by the time they move to 8th grade you are looking at 7% of those students who are proficient in Math and English, 7% -10% approximately. I want to know first of all, what vision you have as Mayor to reach out to students of this segment and how you intent to improve those statistics. Secondly, how do you intend to work with the families and bridge the islands of separation for our young adults?

Mr. Gonzales: As it relates to the statistics, we can work through the performance of specified schools (Agua Fria Elementary and Wood Gormley) and when you look at the curves; the reading proficiency of Agua Fria and also other students, sometimes 76% of the students aren't reading at proficient levels. When you look at 8th grade levels it is around 78%, they are in the Casey Foundation studies. When you go to places like Wood Gormley; sometimes their reading proficiency is much higher, so we know that economics and poverty affect what is happening in our schools. We know that there are social services that can have a positive influence in what happens to communities. When we have wrap around services we afford more opportunities for families to have access to services outside of the school. We need to recognize that Santa Fe with a large immigrant population has a couple of things that we need to do; 1) we need to recognize that with the high cost of living it is difficult to attract teachers in to our community. To attract teachers we either have to pay more and that have the skill set to teach in the classroom to allow these students a real opportunity to learn and to acquire the language skill. We want them to fill valued and to know that diversity is important. It is important to get that additional funding through federal government or through the state, but at a minimum today we can pull together through non-profits and social agencies to have wrapped around services in these schools possibly for tutoring or educational assistance, they do exist out there. We know through Adelante and some of the others that they are trying to raise money to provide some of those services for our kids so it can elevate their reading levels and elevate some of their math levels, those are critical so they have that pathway to graduation. 2) We need to work with families, we need to make sure that families recognize the importance of their kids being in school and that even through the troubles that they know their kids are valued and they will be respected and they need to be in school not out of school. One of the things that we do recognize and I have heard

from many people outside in the community is that when kids are learning that they become the primary supporter in the family because that is the conduit in the community is communication. We need to assure that kids learn the English language, that they recognize that there are services, that there are places for the families to go and get services. Funding is critical and we need to go after the state and federal monies to make sure that happens. I think it is a difficult problem, but I believe that the City can be a true partner with the schools bringing the non-profits together to accomplish one goal for wrap around services. When I originally started talking today, the idea of 400 years and being strongest when our diversity is valuable and brought together is something I worry about today; we are segregated by income clause, segregated by Ethnicity and other ways. It is incumbent to continue to do what Mayor Coss has done and to bring communities together, specifically I think we need to elevate the discussion of the importance of brining the classes together, bringing the multiple cultures together. I am talking specifically between the Hispanic Community that has been here and the new immigrant. We are stronger when we work together and are a value to the families instead of being separated. I believe that is the first place I would start and then we can continue to bring in some of the sub-cultures that we talk about. As a city we need to focus in becoming one Santa Fe. We do recognize that we have equal contributions to our community and we do that be assuring we have equal services for families across the city. You do that by example when we talk about Youth Development, that access to opportunities through work or education are offered through this community and we have to address that vigorously. We have a ways to go but I want to emphasize that I recognize that this segregation exists and I think it is the primary responsibility of the Mayor is going to be to boost the communities together to do that and convene a dialogue. We have wonderful festivities on the plaza but we have to move some of those throughout the city and invite multiple cultures to participate so people feel connected. I think it is important for the Mayor to reach out to them to be a part of the community and to be available and to participate.

Ms. Esquibel said that while we are waiting for these state and federal funds that sometimes are impossible, I think there are real ways to shift specific activities where we see the population participate. There are cities and schools who have done this more successfully with dual language.

Mr. Gonzales said that we need to work with SFPS to get a trade school or vo-tech so our kids get jobs and develop that skill set. We want better lives, upward mobility and a way to raise our families. There has to be pathways for alternative schools when they don't fit in the K-12 structure.

Chair Seluja: 60% of new business licenses are from Immigrants. How can you support these immigrant businesses and how can we increase them?

Mr. Gonzales said it is an incredible statistic but it is not unique to Santa Fe, all across this country over the past 6-10 years it has been Latino and Immigrant businesses that are creating the jobs in our community, the entrepreneurship. What we need to do as a city is really have a focus on small businesses, when people want to start a business and assure

that they have a government that is going to help them through the process in an expedited manner, that they have the resources and the talent around them to help them develop a business plan, how to approach banks which I think can be difficult if you have never solicited loans in our community. Banks and people in business in our community are here to help the immigrants who are starting new businesses which can be translated into other areas of our community. We need to have them at the table when we talk about growing our economy; they should have an active participation just as much as the Chamber of Commerce. The data has proven that these businesses succeed.

Amparo Guerrero: Commented about the need for spaces and places to assist the Immigrant population on the south side.

Mr. Gonzales said when we talk about a community that is segregated part of it is about the services available in places for people to go to. Kids on the south side whether they are part of an immigrant family or not, it is difficult to get to Warehouse 21 and it is an amazing place for kids. The other issue is that we have to make city facilities more inviting where people feel that they are accepted whether they come from Santa Fe or not, the facility should be one they are comfortable in. One of the things that the City has to do is move programming like Warehouse 21to the South side and make spaces more available to kids on the south side. One of my struggles is that we have two of our high schools on the south side and we have a great facility in the rail yard and it is difficult for kids to make their way up here. We can look at the La Farge Library and see what we can do to transform the space and add programming in that area. We need to go down in the areas near the capitol and see if we can get CDBG money to explore programming in that area. I propose to create a Santa Fe Youth Services Corp; the idea is that we would bring in High School kids to learn about service and to develop leadership skills. The drugs in our community are a big issue and there is great exposure in our community. Our police force needs to be given our support to be able to help fight drug exposure and abuse for our kids.

Jewel Cabeza de Vaca: Thank you to Mr. Gonzales for making himself available to the questions from the Committee. There are a lot of things that this community has brought to his attention and she has heard that Mr. Gonzales is involved in the arena that supports one big community for Santa Fe. It is a big project to create openness and transparency. Ms. Cabeza de Vaca said that she appreciates that Mr. Gonzales has that sensitivity and that he would like to cultivate all cultures and creating one community.

Marcella Diaz: This committee exists because in 1999 the City Council passed a resolution that bars discrimination and insures that city employees and city police could not inquire on immigration status. Out of that resolution this committee was created to monitor the implementation of that resolution and the policies that have come out of that and monitor the human rights status of immigrants in our community. In the last 11-12 years we have worked very closely with various police chiefs, mayors and various city councilors and we insure that there is a strong understanding of police policy to assure that immigrants regardless of their immigration status feel like they don't have to run from the police that they can run to the police, that they can cooperate on investigations,

they can be witnesses when they are victims of crimes. We also know as workers in our community they should feel like they can come forward and complain about wage issues and other violations. In part, that policy created that policy so they would not feel like they are targeted. How committed to that policy are you; how do you see yourself if you were to become Manager, strengthening that policy and continuing to insure that our city police isn't cooperating with immigration officials, that our police chief is clear about this policy.

Mr. Gonzales: I am committed to the policy; I have had the opportunity to meet with the police officers and I feel like over the time that there is this recognition that we are a community where people can feel safe, that there isn't this belief amongst the rank and order that they have to work with federal officials and violate the promise that we made to people in our community. We need to make it known that that we will not use our resources to hurt or disrupt their families. We need to work so that our police officers are fluent in Spanish, that they develop key relationships are trustworthy in the immigrant community so that they are able to become validated. Last year there were about 1,000 reported domestic abuse cases. I don't know how that breaks down to the immigrant community, but it affects everybody. When this happens the families need to know that they can get help and that something bad won't happen to them. We want them to know there is always a safe place for them. We need to continue to educate our community and breakdown the barriers. As Mayor, Mr. Gonzales feels that he can do that.

Mr. Gonzales said in closing, thank you. "We need to work to make sure that the immigrant community feels comfortable teaching us as much as we want to be a piece of their culture. We need to find ways that people feel comfortable stepping outside of the community and engaging in dialogue with people who have lived here for a while. I would be interested in the ideas on how we could do that. It goes back to families when we feel safe, when we step outside of it; it becomes a little more difficult. Given this opportunity how do we get the immigrant community to step out and feel comfortable?"

4. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2013

Page 3: Los Campañeros should be: Los Campanario

Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2013 as corrected, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. Guest Speakers: Mr. Rivera

The Chair welcomed Mr. Rivera, new editor to the New Mexican. Mr. Rivera was pleased to come before the Immigration Committee and stated that they take covering immigration matters seriously. They have stepped up their coverage on immigration since he has taken the position of Editor. The point of this coverage is as Mr. Gonzales has discussed, we want to let the full community know of this new community. He takes this information seriously. Open for questions.

Cara Esquibel: As a Teacher of Spanish Language Arts teaching Spanish to other Spanish speakers I used to use La Voz extensively when it was a complete magazine separately that came out on Mondays. We worked with their editor and used it as part of our curriculum. It went from one magazine to one page. I realize that it is about economics; I would say that instead of just writing about immigrants it would be nice if they would have a place where they could have a voice, they are 14% of our population in Santa Fe. I am not the only teacher that used it in our curriculum; my students would go off and look at what was written.

Mr. Rivera said that when he came on board the area was not a useful page and it was a matter of economics to cut it down. It will be a while before you see a whole section again but what we have done is included a full feature in Spanish every Monday. If we have a good story dealing with different issues around the world we will put it in there as well and we are trying to do that with more frequency and that page will improve. Frankly when I got here the instruction I received was to cancel that page. It is good to know that people are reading it and what they want from it and that is what I would like to hear more of. Now when you talked about what kind of stories they were looking for, were you talking about international stories that were relevant to situations back home or are they talking about local news here.

Cara Esquibel: I think all three. Mexico is our neighbor, we are close to it, it seems like there could be something in Spanish that would cater to the 14% of the population in Santa Fe. The more that there are articles like that, a lot of people do not understand what is happening at the Federal level, what are they supposed to do with deferred action, if there could be more information. Flor de Maria would come to talk to the students about journalism.

Mr. Rivera: Do you want to see more stories different from what is translated now. What ages were the students that were reading it? The articles were never geared towards the Spanish language readers. We want to improve this area but there are also a lot of areas that need to be improved. Thank you for the input.

Ms. Esquibel offered information that 75% of the students do not have household usage to the internet for their homework.

Mr. Rivera said that they might only have one page but they have unlimited space on the website for information should anyone want to have it published.

Ms. Diaz stated that Spanish Language content for Spanish speakers; in the work that she does representing a statewide organization doing a lot of work around a lot of issues. Although it is immigrant based, one of the challenges with media is that even when wanting to cover immigrant issues or the work that immigrant activists are doing, it is very much about immigration debate; if we do a story about workers rights for example, often reports want to make it about are you an immigrant worker are you not an immigrant worker. One of our challenges in our community and I think Mr. Gonzales alluded to it earlier are the perceptions of these divisions and in our community we know

we work side by side with other low wage workers, we go to church with other local Latinos and non-Latinos. As we develop deep roots in these communities, especially because a lot of the immigrants that live here our families have lived here for 15 or 20 years. When we talk about news back home we are talking about news that affects us and includes us here in Santa Fe because this is our home. It is a real challenge with us often times with a lot of media because it is always about status, immigrants, immigration reform and they are more vulnerable because they are immigrant workers. In reality even if we got papers tomorrow and our families were no longer mixed and we all had status we would still be poor, we would still not have health care, we would still low wage workers and we would still have to deal with racial profiling, we would still have to deal with the issues that people of color face in New Mexico. That is really a comment and we are in hopes that the New Mexican will lead the way to show how integrated we are.

Mr. Rivera: That is what we try to do with stories like when we write about little Chihuahua or something like that. It is about immigration, it is about how a number of people from Chihuahua have moved to this small area. That story was about a number of things, it was about how new immigrants in the community add and enhance the community, the foods and the products and everything that you can get in this community. It was also about the isolation of this community, here they are in Santa Fe where the majority of the Hispanics whether they would acknowledge it or not, and many of them won't, come from Mexico or have some blood relations in Mexico or Central America. Many will say they are pure Spanish and these are some of the people who are fiercely in the state against immigrants. When we do stories like that we want to bring the communities together, we want to show what is available and invite people to come and explore it themselves and not treat it as a ghetto. When we are writing about issues like wage theft and things like that, the fact is that one's immigration status does make you that much more vulnerable to wage theft. It does create a barrier; sometimes things like crime, your immigration status can make you more vulnerable to crime. That is one of the great things in Santa Fe is that it doesn't use its resources because of this 1999 resolution to go after immigrants. But the fact is if they go to jail they are still vulnerable because once that finger print check is done then they are subject to the Secured Communities Act so ICE will have access to those finger prints and they can come and they can call the jail and ask that an individual be held for 48 hours until they check status.

Ms. Diaz: One of our goals as a committee and as an organization is to elevate the conversation and when we are talking about the immigrant community, like the little Chihuahua story, not talking about them as a national origin or a status. I would also say that there are assumptions in our community that we are trying to work through and help. I would like to share with you even polling that we have done in the last 18 years. We have worked to pass some of the most aggressive legislation in the country around immigration and I can tell you that I have been there for 16 of those 18 years where our strongest allies have been local Latino/Hispanos throughout New Mexico, particularly Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico. I think it would be really surprising for people to hear that when we did across the board polling on drivers licenses for example 2 ½ years ago, that the people that were most for drivers licenses were Hispanos in Santa Fe and

Northern New Mexico. There are a lot of assumptions in our jobs. Our job in this committee and organizations is to stay educated on immigration. Thank you; I wanted you to be aware and to please use us as a resource. All of our organizations are aware of what is happening in deeper Santa Fe.

Mr. Rivera: We are not going to write articles that please you all the time, we aren't going to use language that will please use all the time, but we are sincere and we are going to write stories as honestly and as factually as we can and we can't do that without your help. We need your help more than you may need us.

6. Announcements

Transitional Educational Institute "Opening Day" – January 12, 2014 – There are 6 individuals enrolled.

7. Community Comments

None

8. Old Business

a. Update Immigration Reform at the Federal Level No update, keep on the agenda.

b. Same-Sex Marriage - Immigration Rights

The Chair asked if anyone has information on challenges, to please bring to the committee

9. New Business

- a. Mayoral Candidate Presentation Javier Gonzales (See above)
- b. Discussion on which Items to Keep Ongoing During 2014
- c. Questionnaire: Ms. Diaz commented that she has 4 questions for the questionnaire; she does not have any questions on education and asked the committee for input. Ms. Diaz also asked how the questionnaire would be distributed. Ms. Diaz stated that the questions are very similar to what has been asked of the Mayoral Candidates. Numerous studies have shown that comprehensive immigration reform with a pass to citizenship is vital to economic recovery for the nation and local communities. What can city officials do specifically the city council to insure that the City of Santa Fe is transmitting this reform effort locally?

Ms. Rodriguez commented that she and Mr. Sanchez manage a lot of contracts, almost \$2 million dollars in value as well as the Arts Commission which is about another \$1 million dollars. In those contracts they are inquired to assure that they pay minimum wage to all of their employees and as part of that process we tell them to show us their employee documentation on salary when we do a site visit. We have a process to insure that the employees are receiving minimum wage for the non-profit organizations that receive contracts from the city. I assume that the others who do

contracts have to do that as well for construction projects. When you get to the next level of how you regulate private companies, which gets to be a real sticky thing; there are no reporting mechanisms that come back to the city that say, yes I paid......

Ms. Diaz stated that they are improving, they have been working with SOMOS and he workers center has been working to improve this item. The City is empowered and has the ability if people are just not paying, to not renew their licenses. The city has not enforced this step.

Ms. Esquibel asked if there was a way to raise the consciousness in this question.

Ms. Diaz responded that personally she likes getting specifics. It was noted that the City Council is making policy, not so much the Mayor. Ms. Esquibel reiterated that the policy has been made and Ms. Diaz responded that the policy has been made but not so much the enforcement procedure.

Questionnaire:

- Immigrant families make up 14% of Santa Fe and are an essential part of the local work force. Many of these workers are often not paid for all of their work; they are not paid overtime and not paid Santa Fe minimum wage, what can the city do to insure vigorous enforcement of the city minimum wage for all workers in Santa Fe?
- According to the recent statewide study, 1 of 4 immigrant workers are not paid fairly. We know that many of them are not being paid the Santa Fe living wage, what can the City do insure workers enforcement?
- Over 50% of new businesses are licenses are stopped by immigrant entrepreneurs, what can the city do to facilitate the process for immigrants, especially Spanish speaking immigrants to become successful business owners and job creators and how do you see the growing immigrant community as a partner in economic development efforts for the city?
- Public safety has improved because of the city's policy of insuring that the employees including local police officers are not inquiring about work force and civil immigration law, how committed are you to this policy and what can city government do to make mixed immigrant families feel safer to participate in community policing and safety efforts?

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca had questions about the day workers at De Vargas Park, they are not paid by the local community for the work that they are done. How do we protect those day laborer's, there is no accountability. Based on what we want the Mayor and City Council to enforce, here is a good example where they do not get paid what they are worth.

Ms. Diaz asked if that should be an added question, how to we enforce the minimum wage for day workers.

Ms. Esquibel suggested that Mr. Morgan Smith, a retired lawyer from Denver, Colorado, be invited to the Immigration Committee. He was a day labor lawyer in Denver, Colorado and now lives in Santa Fe.

Ms. Esquibel will send an education question by e-mail to Ms. Diaz.

Ms. Esquibel moved to approve the questions as listed above to distribute to the City Councilors, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous vote, one abstention.

Discussion: Ms. Cabeza de Vaca requested more time to review the questionnaire. Ms. Diaz said that time was limited at this time and hope that action would be taken at this meeting.

d. Presentation to City Council regarding the Committee's Activities

Ms. Diaz moved to table item 9-d, second by Ms. Esquibel, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

10. Communications from Staff None

11. Communications from Committee

Ms. Diaz said that there is another complaint about a violation of the city policy. Ms. Diaz said she would share with the SFPD representative who the arresting officer was and she would like to get it investigated. Basically there was a woman from El Salvador that was recently arrested, never divulged her immigration status, was taken to the station and her arresting officer asked her about her national origin and then called ICE and put her on the phone with ICE. ICE started to interview her, she knew her rights and she said she did not have to tell them anything. Based on exercising her right to remain silent they put an ICE old on her. There was additional information related to this case and Ms. Diaz will work with the Police Department.

12. Next Meeting and Adjourn

February 4, 2014 at 4:30 pm - Next Meeting Date and Time

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Signature Sheet:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair

Fran Lucero, Stenographer