



# Agenda

DATE 10/31/13 TIME 4:43p

PREPARED BY Terrie Rodriguez

APPROVED BY [Signature]

**Immigration Committee  
November 5, 2013  
Councilors' Conference Room  
City Hall  
4:30pm to 6:00pm**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2013
4. Mayoral Candidate Guests: Roman Abeyta and Patty Bushee
5. Announcements
6. Community Comments
7. New Business
  - a. Update on County Jail Policy
  - b. Report on Southside Community Fiesta
  - c. Problems with Enforcement of City Minimum Wage
  - d. Update on Immigration Reform at the Federal Level
8. Communications from Staff
9. Communications from Committee
10. Next Meeting and Adjourn


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**CITY OF SANTA FE**

**Immigration Committee**

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**Minutes – November 5, 2013**

  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer  
Draft Until Approved

**Immigration Committee  
MINUTES**

November 5, 2013  
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Maria Christina Lopez, Vice Chair for the Immigration Committee called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, Historic Preservation Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum was not present; the committee chose to conduct business with no formal actions.

**Present:**

Maria Cristina Lopez  
Cara Esquibel  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca  
Marcela Diaz

**Not Present**

Alejandra Seluja, Excused  
Elizabeth Hemmer, Excused  
Amparo Guerrero, Excused  
Cecilia Tadfoor, Excused

**Others Present**

Terrie Rodriguez, Youth and Family Services, Division Director  
Chris Sanchez, Youth and Family Services, Program Manager  
Julia Valdez, Liaison, Santa Fe County  
Adda Sallard, SOMOS un Pueblo Unido  
Dale Lettenberger, Liaison, Santa Fe City Police Department  
Javier Ríos  
Anna Serrano for Fran Lucero, Stenographer

**Mayoral Candidates Forum**

Patty Bushee  
Roman Abeyta

- 2. Approval of Agenda**  
**No formal action, lack of quorum.**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**  
**No formal action, lack of quorum.**

#### **4. Mayoral Candidate Guests:**

**Patty Bushee**

**Roman Abeyta**

##### Opening Statements:

Roman Abeyta – Born and raised in Santa Fe and both parents lived off of Canyon Road. He moved to the south side of town and is very familiar with all of Santa Fe. Right out of high school he worked with Animal Control with Santa Fe County, he eventually worked his way up Santa Fe County Planning, he served as Deputy Santa Fe County Manager. For a while he broke service with the County and worked as Deputy City Manager, he was offered the position of Santa Fe County Manager and returned. In that position Mr. Abeyta collaboratively asked the Commission what their goals and priorities were; one was to clean up the Santa Fe County Jail. There were way too many deaths, the drug problem was out of control and operating under the direction of a private contractor and the other was Planning and Land Use, Employee Development and relationships between the city and county. The County Jail was in bad condition at the time. The year before I became county manager there were 6 deaths and the Department of Justice had come in and they were threatening to issue us with a consent decree and take over operations if we didn't dramatically improve it. They got the contractor out of the mix as that was the first problem and they were more interested in their bottom line than the security of the inmates. In 1 ½ year we were able to turn it around and the DOJ was happy with the improvements. That was the first time I was exposed to the Immigration Committee as we addressed the topic of ICE holds. When I left the county I became the Director of the Boys and Girls Club as they were experiencing financial problems. My kids attended the after school program. I am running for Mayor based on my experience with local government and now working with children and families I feel that I can make an impact on our community.

Cara Esquibel: I am the representative on this Committee for Education. Santa Fe Public School statistics: There are approximately 14,000 students in the SFPS with the Charters, 30% are ELL students. 75% of the district is Hispanic, Graduation Rate for the district is 61.8%, 59% ELL graduation rate, SBA (Standardized Base Assessment) ELL students are at the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile nationwide. Hispanics are below all other groups. Santa Fe is the lowest in the state.

Mr. Abeyta: I learned a lot and deal with that every day at the Boys and Girls Club. Boys and Girls Club of America has worked with this and found that a child is more likely to graduate from high school if they attend an after school program. Our mission at the boys club is that every child be college ready or career ready at 18. In order to do that they have to graduate from high school or receive their GED. As Mayor, what I would do is I would get more strategic for our quality of life. The \$600,000 or \$700,000 that I have applied for with the Children and Youth Commission; if we would receive that money I would like to work with the SFPS and prioritize the use of that money for after school programs that will have a direct impact on graduation rate. I have been

working with the Boys and Girls Club for the last 2 ½ years. We need to help increase graduation rates. I have made tough decisions but we need to meet our goals. The one good thing that the city has in place is they have monthly reports and how the money is being spent. Whatever the goals are outlined, a deliverable has to be defined and reported on. As Mayor when you are in a leadership position, you may have to say no, and maybe not forever, but priorities are important.

Ms. Lopez: How is that specifically going to benefit immigrant children? How is your outreach as some of these programs are nice but they don't always reach the immigrant community?

Mr. Abeyta: We need to identify the connectors in the community, have a dialogue directly with them.

Marcela Diaz: I represent an organization that represents immigrants. We are good, we are creative, we are good problem solvers, we have had to overcome a lot of obstacles and yet we have a lot of challenges. What could you do as Mayor to engage our community more and provide more representatives at the table so we could share or be a part of policy discussions? We have great ideas to contribute, what can you do so that the city isn't talking about us but with us?

Mr. Abeyta: When I was at Santa Fe County, we had 5 or 6 Native American Pueblos in our jurisdiction; we had an annual summit with them. We sat down goals and objectives, we assigned individuals to work with them and meet those goals throughout the year. The next year we would evaluate our accomplishments and set goals. I envision doing the same thing as Mayor, having a summit to invite the immigrant community. The immigrant community is vital to our economy. They are more likely to start their businesses and grow our communities.

Marcela Diaz: This committee, and as you mentioned you have worked with this committee in the past; was founded in part by Resolution in 1999, passed unanimously by the city, to insure that our city resources were not used to discriminate against people based on their immigration status or national origin. We also as a city were very supportive of efforts to insure that immigrants in our city had access to drivers licenses and to insure that we have anti-biased based police policies at the state and city level. The city has done a good job that our other legislators know how important immigrants are to the work force in the city. Our committee in part is here to enforce and we have a lot of challenges. What ideas do you have, do you think it is working; there is still some fear in our city based on other city, state and county policies. What ideas do you have to support public safety integrating immigrants?

Mr. Abeyta: We need to continue supporting this committee, this is where it starts. Working in local government there are times you have too many committees but this is one that actually works and I can say that because I experienced it myself as county manager dealing with the jail issues. Just because you are tackling one thing, and I see the update on the jail in your agenda, things change with administrative changes. As

Mayor I will attend your meetings and convey the needs to staff to support the endeavors of the Immigration Committee.

Marcela Diaz: How committed are you to insuring local police administration, the Mayor selects the Chief of Police. How will you insure that the local police are fairly treating our community so they participate in our community efforts?

Mr. Abeyta: If I am elected Mayor, I am going to have a whole new administration; it may be with existing people it may not. One thing I am going to do at a minimum is interview every person in every top position that I have authority over. Your committee will have a seat at that table; your chair can sit at that table to interview law enforcement lead. We want to show that the Mayor shows interest in all top positions. It might be the same Chief of Police, I don't know, but you will be at the table helping to make those selections.

Ms. Lopez stated that immigrants make up 20% of our workforce, 14% of the community – and we have this great minimum wage compared to other places. The problem that we have been having is that the city doesn't have a good method of enforcing the minimum wage. Therefore when businesses are not following it, people come to the Immigration Committee. What could you do to make the enforcement?

Mr. Abeyta: We need to look at existing systems and staff that we have in place, we have to reorganize so we can't address if there are areas that are lacking in enforcement, we need to prioritize and reassign people so that enforcement happens. If that means expanding somebody's roll than that is what we need to do. Part of the challenge and what I find exciting about that is we can look at that and we can expand and make things better for Santa Fe.

Marcela Diaz: It is a resource issue it isn't that we don't have political will right now, we have fairly good enforcement – it is a resource issue.

Mr. Abeyta: I think that is what distinguishes me from my opponents; I know how to organize local government so we can do things like that. I did that for 20 years.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca: We are talking about providing resources for our students after school to get them to the point where they are confident and ready to become productive citizens after they get their diplomas or GED. Given that scenario and knowing one of the problems that the country is facing is job availability that is something that we need in this city. Too many times are children are educated in this city and they have to leave to seek employment. A job is what they work for, they strive and they study. What are your thoughts in creating, sustaining, making jobs available?

Mr. Abeyta: If we continue down the same path Santa Fe will become a retirement city. Many of our kids are graduating from college and not returning to Santa Fe. One bold initiative that I have is taking over the utility company from PNM. That will not only address our environment on how we power it, it will create jobs and not just the jobs of

running a utility company. Other cities that have done this have attracted R&D firms and companies because they know that the city has made a commitment to renewable energy so the products that they are able to produce or potentially produce will incentivize the city. If we can create solar farms or initiatives for people to put solar panels on their roofs it creates jobs. We have to continue to promote tourism; we need to diversify our government so we don't lose our kids.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca: As a woman we see the high crime rate; we have a problem in this city with the increase of drugs and it is all related to the crime rate, i.e., breaking in to homes and cars. I am concerned about safety, I would like to take a walk and feel safe or go anywhere and walk and feel that there is a level of safety that you can experience.

Mr. Abeyta: We need to invest in our police department and alternative programs. When these kids are getting suspended they are sent home and they are causing problems. I believe in the broken window theory of policing and that is basically little things make big things happen. We need to address those little things. We need to start attracting those young 18-19-20 year old individuals affording them internships in to our law enforcement departments. We need a larger police force.

Patty Bushee – City Councilor for District 1 for two decades. She has a long history of supporting immigrant, women, civil and animal rights. Her father was one of 15 kids and she grew up with strong values. She has been able to be a public official and public servant who brought voices to the table. In 1999, the first Latina Mayor and Councilor Bushee brought forward the 1999 Resolution that helped create this Committee to stop discrimination against Nationality. This resolution was passed that evening unanimously along with the Hate Crime ordinance. Councilor Bushee has had the opportunity to work with many community organizations, including SOMOS un Pueblo Unido. Councilor Bushee has been active in many programs in support of immigration. Councilor Bushee made reference to a Resolution from 1985 declaring Santa Fe a city of refuge from Salvadorans and Guatemalans. Councilor Bushee said that they don't hear enough from the Immigration Committee directly on those points of information and importance other than committee reports. Mayor Coss has been very supportive and Councilor Bushee would like to hear directly from the Immigration Committee on those points of importance. Councilor Bushee said it is time for people to stop dividing and that we understand the plight that we all have. It is important, it is a core value. Some people will say during an election, "oh they can't vote", that is the time when you organize, that is the time when you bring attention and ask for things, that is when you want to pay attention to issues and you bring everyone together. Councilor Bushee said that she liked the comment that Marcela Diaz, committee member had made; "everything you do helps all of us." I call it the minimum wage more than I call it the living wage. All that effort and all that work toward discouraging making sure that we enforce the ordinance and discourage wage theft. All of that helps, it helps our local economy. It is folks that earn the lowest wages are spending to help our economy. Everyone understands that we all live here, we are neighbors, friends, those are the stories we had to say from the gay-lesbian community. We needed to let everyone know, we are here, we are neighbors, friends and family. I appreciate the time here today.

M. Diaz: Education – how we have to work so hard to educate folks, there are so many ugly myths out there that immigrants take jobs instead of creating jobs. The statement that immigrants are a part of the crime problem as opposed to the solution. How do you think that the office of Mayor can help, you say we have to educate the at-large community.

Councilor Bushee: There are a couple of reasons to run for Mayor. One of the main reasons is to make sure that you have a good team in place to do the peoples work. You are able to define your vision of community, your vision of where you should be as a community. Why I raised this Resolution of 1985 is because it almost feels like we have gone backwards. Here we had somewhat a sanctuary state resolution, and when we put it in 1999 we couldn't go that far but we did put a strong statement and concrete, not just nice sounding words. We made sure that our police were not acting like ICE, you can work with a Police Chief; you can put a team together that is going to have the training that is needed. We have had a good relationship with our Police Department regarding the immigrant population, they really understand that through licensing or those having insurance, the streets will be safer. My real hope is that we will move forward together. I can't do anything about Congress, I can write all the resolutions, but we can make a difference at the local level. That is where people can reach out and touch you. As someone who has been a legislator, making laws and I could not fall under all the laws of the state of New Mexico. I go back to the core values that I have had since my father instilled in me. I took it international when I lived in Spain. The issue for me is not discrimination; there are class issues I learned in Spain. I was there right after Franco's reign. There were laws on the books that woman could not get jobs until all the men in the household had jobs. I am never afraid to be out there. We all deserve a good wage, a good quality of life, a good education, good health care – who does it help to have the Dream Act. What good does it do to educate our kids through high school and then not allow them go on to college, or not allow them to have access to health care? There are stresses on our finances; I spend time reviewing our city budget and there is money available. There are many concrete things we can work for or against at the state level. Councilor Bushee said that to remember it takes 5 positive votes on the city council to get something through. Councilor Bushee wanted to put a labor board together and she is still working on that for the City. I think the city overall is a friendly city.

Cara Esquibel: Question on schools, how would you address the disparity? Even though immigrants make up 14% of the population of the city, they make up 30% in the schools, in the country we are 50% on wellness. In Santa Fe we are one of the districts at the lowest in the state. For ELL they have the lowest graduation rate.

Councilor Bushee: As councilor I sponsored an ordinance that required we spend 3% of our general fund for children and youth programs and a lot of them are in coordination with the schools. I meet weekly with the Superintendent of Schools, I am involved with the creation of the Teen Center, and I am always willing to be out in front. Our school system is important in our educational system. Funding is always an issue. I refer back to the Hold Harmless because it is a little bit of a bump in the road; we need to be able to do



the programming that we so much need the wrap around services, the expansion of Zona del Sol. We are already working in concert, the issues in the growing south side. We need to take care of our kids before they end up in juvenile court. We will continue to fund at the level we can fund programs in the schools, we will continue to build infrastructure for playing fields, we will continue to have cooperative agreements and arrangements and hopefully have more. We are sitting on more cash balances that we can expect. I am not one to put another progressive tax; we don't want to hurt business or our community who can't afford it. I supported Abel from Youth Works who did an internship at the Fire Department. I have faith in our Police Department; it would be good to have an apprenticeship program to help these kids serve our community. I have worked so hard on affordable housing and it is disheartening to know that our workforce cannot afford a home. You also want a City Council who doesn't un-do the work that we have done. My priority is our youth, our community, and our educational system. I can't do what I need to do as a community leader if our kids aren't being educated and believing in themselves. The families also need to be taken care of.

Marcela Diaz: There are a lot of assumptions that are made about immigrants in our city. We are a part of the work force, we heard that we are 50% of new business licenses are immigrant owned. There has also been discussion on this committee regarding stimulating the economy and all of that is under economic development. We see other cities in the country talking about recruiting where they understand how important continued injection of a young, vital immigrant family are especially to an aging community and Santa Fe is an aging community. How do you see immigrants as a part of our economic development strategies in the next 4-years?

Councilor Bushee: Made reference to a business relationship in the past – she helped this individual to create a business of his own. I have been one of the only small business owners in this Council, green jobs are thrown around right now and our community college has also kept up with so many of the inventive resources, etc., we have a lot of different things. When I got on the council I vied for small businesses, supporting that forms should be in Spanish to be able to do the day-to-day business. I have known some amazing Immigrant entrepreneurs. It is hard; it isn't only our internal population aging. We want the visitors; the other privilege I have had is to work on the bike trails. It has led us in to a new avenue of eco-tourism. We brought the International Bike Ride, we have been mentioned in USA today, and there is great national recognition on Santa Fe. The small businesses are going to be what sustain us. We have had bio-tech, but often when they get big enough they are gone.

Maria Cristina Lopez: In the areas that you described, how are you bringing the Immigrant community to make decisions about small businesses? Yes; the business are coming out but how can they be more integrated in the planning of the future.

Councilor Bushee: It is about outreach and offering assistance. I am not saying there aren't hoops they have to go through but I want to help all small businesses. I want to help grow our local economy, business by business. If you all can help me and educate

me as your leader as to what are the missing pieces for the immigration population so they can actually step ahead to where they want to be.

Maria Cristina Lopez: The reason we are asking this is because we have many allies. Sometimes people are surprised when big decisions take place in our community and those allies forget to even bring up immigrant issues.

Councilor Bushee: That is why – and it was said by one of my colleagues, I didn't know you brought this resolution forward on the immigrants. There is always a conversation about those who comment on the immigrants in jobs, yet they don't apply for those positions. There are concerns about the immigrant who goes to the police department and they don't speak Spanish, and there aren't forms that are in both languages. Councilor Bushee urged the committee to come directly to her. Thank you.

## **5. Announcements**

Javier Rios was invited to the meeting by Maria Cristina Lopez. Mr. Rios was born and raised in Santa Fe with family from Mexico. He works for the Department of Health. His focus in the immigrant community is a strong collaboration with the health community. His goal is to have Immigrant Health Services. He is bi-lingual and provided information on his educational background. Ms. Lopez invited him for introduction and recommendation to become a member of the Immigration Committee.

## **6. Community Comments**

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Update on County Jail Policy**

Request to invite Pablo Sedillo to next meeting. Question related to a recent article in the paper to have direct communication with ICE and jail officials. The committee would like more information on this article and its reference to Santa Fe County entering into an agreement with ICE. The committee said they were told that there is no formal agreement and they would like clarification on this matter. There may be confusion from the reporter who wrote this article. Ms. Valdez was asked to extend the invitation to Mr. Sedillo to attend the next month meeting.

### **b. Report on Southside Community Fiesta**

### **c. Problems with Enforcement of City Minimum Wage** Next meeting agenda item.

### **d. Update on Immigration Reform at the Federal Level** Next meeting agenda item.

**8. Communication from Staff**

Recommended the 500 Market Street location for the next meeting. The Immigration Committee would like to remain at the city hall location.

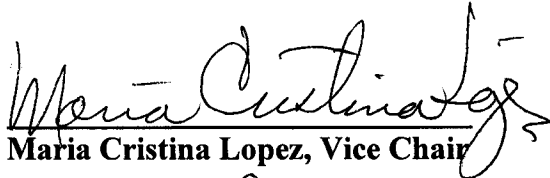
**9. Communications from Committee**

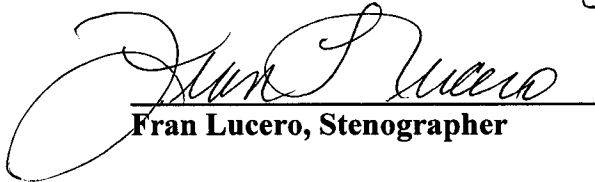
**10. Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Next month meeting will be held at City Hall location on December 3, 2013.

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

**Signature Page:**

  
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**Maria Cristina Lopez, Vice Chair**

  
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**Fran Lucero, Stenographer**