



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 2-29-12 TIME 4:52

SERVED BY Carla Lopez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Immigration Committee

March 13, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.

Santa Fe Community Convention Center

Tesuque Room

201 W. Marcy St.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 7, 2011
- IV. Announcements
- V. Community Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Southside update / business meetings / schools and immigrants
 - b. Legislative Update / drivers licenses
 - c. SFPD policies regarding ICE update
- VII. New Business
 - a. Michael Puccetti, Director of Legal Assistance and Citizenship for Catholic Charities
 - b. New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
 - c. County Public Safety Director
- VIII. Communications from Staff
- IX. Communications from Committee
- X. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at (505) 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**INDEX SUMMARY OF MINUTES
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
March 13, 2012**

<u>INDEX</u>	<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>	<u>PAGE(S)</u>
Cover Page		1
Call to Order	Call to Order by Chair, Maria Cristina Lopez at 4:07 pm in the Coronado Room of the Santa Fe Convention Center	2
Roll Call	A quorum was declared.	2
Review and Approval of Agenda	<i>Mr. Acosta moved to approve the agenda as amended, moving New Business before Old Business and C-Old Business will not be heard, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2
Approval of Minutes Correction of Name: Mr. Buehetti - Pucetti Page 4 – b. 4 th Paragraph, 2 nd sentence: illegal should be legally 6 th paragraph, There is a great article by Margaret Stock, <i>National Homeland Security Expert</i> .	<i>Ms. Shinas moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2012 as amended, second by Mr. Acosta, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2-3
Announcements	<i>Informational</i>	3
Community Comments	<i>Informational</i>	3
Old Business a. <u>Southside Update/house meetings/schools and immigrants</u> b. <u>Drivers' Licenses for all / Legislative Update</u> c. <u>SFPD Policies regarding ICE update (deferred, no representation for SFPD)</u>	<i>Informational, no formal motions.</i>	4

**INDEX SUMMARY OF MINUTES
IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE
March 13, 2012**

New Business		4-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Michael Puccetti, Director of legal assistance and citizenship for Catholic Charities</u> b. <u>NM Immigrant Law Center, Megan Martinez</u> c. <u>County Public Safety Director, Pablo Sedillo III</u> 	<p>Informational.</p> <p>Staff Follow Up: Meeting coordination with the county and ICE.</p>	
Communications from Staff	<i>None</i>	7
Communications from Committee	<i>Informational</i>	7
Adjournment	The Chair adjourned at 6:45 pm	7
Thank you to all guests and presenters at tonight's meeting.		
Signature Page		8

Immigration Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2012

I. Call to order

Maria Cristina Lopez, Chair called to order the regular meeting of the Immigration Committee to order at **4:07 pm** on March 13, 2012 at the Santa Fe Convention Center – Coronado Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

II. Roll call

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

In attendance:

Maria Cristina Lopez, Chair
Betty Shinas
Elizabeth Hemmer
Miguel Angel Acosta
Marcela Diaz
Amparo Guerrero
Alejandra Seluja

Absent:

Rev Chester Topple
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca

Others Present:

Fran Lucero, Stenographer
Carla Lopez, Staff Liaison

Presenters names included in content of minutes

Mr. Michael Puccetti, Catholic Charities

Ms. Megan Martinez, NM Law Center

Mr. Pablo Sedillo, III, Santa Fe County Public Safety Director

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Acosta moved to approve the agenda as amended, moving New Business before Old Business and C-Old Business will not be heard, second by Ms. Guerrero, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of minutes from February 7, 2012

Correction of Name: Mr. ~~Buehetti~~ - Puccetti

Page 4 – b. 4th Paragraph, 2nd sentence: ~~illegal~~ should be legally

6th paragraph, There is a great article by Margaret Stock, *National Homeland Security Expert*.

Ms. Shinas moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 20120 as amended, second by Mr. Acosta, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Announcements

Mr. Acosta was asking for a recommendation from the Immigration Committee regarding institutional racism. The recommendation suggested to the City Council was that non-profits that are funded through the youth commission should have efforts to be represented of the population that they serve. The Chair asked that Mr. Acosta bring this topic back to the Committee in a form of a resolution.

Alejandra announced that next Wednesday at 3:00 pm there will be a delegation from International Leadership who has programs for women from all over the country. They are project survivors from sexual abused situations. 50 women from different countries are expected to attend. This event will be covered by the Press.

Ms. Diaz invited the Committee to a reception at El Campanario on March 29th at 5:30 pm to celebrate the successes and hard work. Workers committee worked very hard and said that they couldn't do this without allies who went in and testified and helped through this process.

V. Community Comments

Alejandra Seluja: Commented on individuals who came to do their taxes and had concerns about their deductions and 1099 errors. Concerns are the question on how often does this happen that the information is inaccurate for these individuals who their employers are taking deductions out of their checks and they are not accurate. The question is how we can alert the community on some of the inaccurate tax information for their employees. Some employers do it on purpose and it is important to find a way to recoup those earnings so they don't get penalized for taxes. Options? Do we contact the Attorney General's office? Ms. Diaz said that she will talk to her attorney's on wage and earnings and work with Alejandra to contact the AG's office.

VI. Old Business

a. Southside Update/house meetings/schools and immigrants – Miguel Angel Acosta

The bond passed and thanks you to everyone who worked to get this through. The bond related to the Parks was of great interest to the south side residents. There is a new City Councilor for that area, Christopher Rivera, and he has attended the south side merchant candidates' forum. There were over 29 house meetings conducted, over 200 people that participated audit was a great success. There was about 1/3 of

the younger generation. Future open community planning dialogue meetings will continue and many topics of concern and interest will be presented. They will be at the South Side Library on March 31st and April 3rd. Mr. Acosta will send the meeting notice to the members for calendaring.

A follow up meeting to support locally owned small business will be held with the south side merchants association.

There is going to be a search for a new SFPS superintendent which is quite costly. They will be looking for individuals to serve on the search committee. The search committee will put the criteria together once they are created.

Guadalupe Credit Union has broken ground in the south side. They have outgrown the facility in that area and are happy to announce the building is about 5,000 sq. ft. They are getting people to save money and get in to the main street financial district.

Zona Del Sol that was vacant is now re-opened. Concerns are the same, the organizations and programs there do not benefit the south side.

b. Legislative Update / drivers licenses

Vermont – is moving forward that would permit drivers licenses for undocumented farm workers. Ms. Diaz did testify for the Agricultural Committee and they were trying to get Guadalupe Credit Union to provide a white paper for their position on the benefit of a driver's license when banking accounts are opened. It has to get from the Senate to the House this week. Their whole agricultural community is in support.

Colorado recently launched a campaign and hopes to take their mission to the ballot.

Los Angeles Police Chief report that they continue to proceed through talks in the legislature.

CT is about to start a drivers license stance as well.

We hope that by holding our line in NM we have shown support for other politicians in other states. We are doing this for public safety reasons.

c. SFPD policies regarding ICE update

No representation from the SFPD.

VII. New Business

a. Michael Puccetti, Director of Legal Assistance and Citizenship for Catholic Charities

Ms. Hemmer introduced Mr. Puccetti and the guests who accompanied him from Albuquerque. He brings an extensive amount of expertise as he comes to Catholic Charities from the State Department.

(Committee members introduced themselves to the guests and they introduced themselves to the Committee)

Mr. Puccetti provided a synopsis of the services that are offered in Albuquerque and in Santa Fe. They offer general immigration service for those who are low income. They also offer services in Albuquerque for those who have suffered domestic violence. They also offer a Refugees re-settlement program, GED Classes both in English and in Spanish. Mr. Puccetti said that they are actively working on grants to continue to provide services to those in need; i.e., there are many victims who need support for a variety of crimes.

Ms. Shinas asked about the timeline for citizenship and wanted to know if she could make a referral to check the system on how long their wait is. Mr. Puccetti said that they work closely with the State Department on all cases. Right now they are being told that they are working cases from 1st of July 2009 and the State Department is number crunching every month. Ms. Shinas said another concern that has been brought to her is that since it takes such a long time their kids don't qualify and reiterated that she would like to know if she can refer them to Catholic Charities.

Ms. Diaz asked what the fees are for those who come for services. Mr. Puccetti said they are minimal and less than what you would pay a private attorney. Ms. Hemmer did provide estimated costs for the citizenship application which is \$250 and some attorney fees may charge anywhere from \$2000 to \$3000. Ms. Diaz asked if there was a ball park cost, example, one-third of regular cost. Mr. Puccetti did not quote any figures for services or estimates he reiterated they are there to help people.

Ms. Guerrero expressed her thanks for the work that Catholic Charities does and all the help they provide. She asked if they know about BOWA and if not, she would send information on to him. Ms. Hemmer said that their attorney in Albuquerque is familiar with BOWA and she would be happy to address the committee at a mutually convenient date. Mr. Puccetti provided his e-mail to coordinate future meetings and exchange of information.

Ms. Shinas asked about employers helping the individual get citizenship. Mr. Puccetti said there are cases where that is true, but they do not work with the employers.

b. New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, Megan Martinez

Thank you to the representatives from the NM Immigrant Law Center that attended the Immigration Committee meeting. Mr. Acosta did request business cards from the members of the law center. Staff to follow up on this request.

It was asked if they work with deportation cases and the answer was yes, case by case. Ms. Diaz asked with the high arrest rate, would they travel to rural communities as they get many calls from throughout the state? Ms. Martinez said they do not have the resources to cover those types of costs. They can work with private attorneys throughout the state and provide brief telephone services as a resource. Ms. Martinez said that their rates are about 50% of cost. Victoria is also consulting with the NM Immigrant Law Center.

The Chair asked if they were interested in cases with the schools. Mr. Acosta would be a great benefit in providing this information.

c. County Public Safety Director – Pablo Sedillo, III

The Chair opening remarks was an introduction of the committee members and what entity they represent on the Immigration Committee. She stated that some of the members are also immigrants and they look out for the rights of our community.

Provided information on a recent meeting with the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department, County Manager, Santa Fe County Attorney's and ICE officials who stated their willingness to work with us. We want to focus in on public safety as a priority. The County Public Safety Director is the coordinator in Santa Fe and Director Macias from El Paso ICE will engage with us to participate in community dialogue. The Sheriff and the City Police will collaborate in future discussions with ICE. The Director provided a scenario that he went through in Arizona where he was pulled over and asked where he was born. They heard "Mexico" not "New Mexico" and they continued to ask him for his papers. With all respect he explained that New Mexico was the neighboring case to Arizona, they finally asked him to get back on his car and proceed with no apology. Mr. Sedillo made the statement that out of 400 inmates, 4-6% are undocumented which results in about 20-25 individuals at any given time.

The Chair reiterated that as a committee we have worked with our law enforcement agencies and the courts to assure that the immigrant rights are respected. The Chair explained situations where the jail was violating rights of the immigrants even after they had posted bond and were continuously held and ICE was allowed in.

Ms. Diaz would like to meet with the County Public Safety Director Sedillo to discuss the benefits of the police policy. Those policies are probably the best tools for violent crimes. Ms. Diaz gave many examples for public safety reasons where racial profiling was utilized and local immigrants were affected. Interested in the statement that Mr. Sedillo stated about the 4-6% of the undocumented immigrants that have committed felonies.

Mr. Sedillo said that the jail was honoring the detainer but not providing updates on those that had posted bond. ICE also gave examples of 42 releases where they had not been provided. Ms. Diaz wanted to know how many of the 42 had convictions. Mr. Sedillo said that he could not provide those statistics at this time. The

Immigration Committee did not agree to the 2-day ICE hold; it was the belief of the committee that if the offender posted bond they should be released.

Mr. Sedillo reiterated that ICE is open for dialogue. Ms. Diaz asked if the protocol would allow for the ICE representative and County Representative to be invited to a future Immigration Committee meeting, the answer was yes.

Santa Fe County has received about \$398,000 from the Scout problem as a result of the implemented policies. Mr. Sedillo said that one of the initiatives is the educational base to make any future dialogue effective. There were topics discussed at yesterday's meeting where Judge Segura was impressed with the willingness of ICE to work with us. Mr. Sedillo said we need to be consistent of what we are doing across the board. Future Immigration Committee meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month. (505-992-3092 -work for Mr. Sedillo)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Immigration Committee.

VIII. Communications from Staff

None

IX. Communications from Committee

Demesia Padilla – Tax and Revenue Department - The chair inquired about a recent interview with the press regarding the ITIN and W2 reference for social security numbers. A comment was that it is IRS job is to collect taxes, not to enforce immigration laws. It was said in this interview by Ms. Padilla that Tax and Rev is going to review all of the tax returns that have ITINs to see if she matches any tax fraud to re-verify undocumented immigrants. Channel 13 interview and report said that she would withhold the refunds of those that could not prove their identity and if they had received refunds in the past they would have to make repayment to the Tax and Rev Department. This is pushing people out who pay their taxes. There are two real problems here and they will continue to be researched and discussed with legal counsel through SOMOS to see how we can control this process that Ms. Padilla references. There are serious and real issues related to her intent.

Mr. Acosta will provide the committee by e-mail with additional information related to the continued meetings on the South Side as they progress.

X. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm

Signature Page:

3/13/12 Immigration Committee Meeting

Minutes submitted by: Fran Lucero, Stenographer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fran Lucero", written in a cursive style.

Minutes approved by: Maria Cristina Lopez, Chair