



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 11-30-11 TIME 1:34pm

SERVED BY Carla Lopez

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Immigration Committee
December 6, 2011 – 5:45 p.m.
City Councilors' Conference Room
200 Lincoln Avenue

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 4, 2011
- IV. Announcements
- V. Community Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. City Councilors' and / or Mayor's Amicus brief
 - b. City Bond proposal for Southside improvements update
 - c. Drivers' licenses for immigrants update
- VII. New Business
 - a. Mexican Consulate Representatives – Ventanilla de Salud
 - b. New Mexican editorial page
- VIII. Committee Business
 - a. Approval of 2012 meeting dates
 - b. Committees
- IX. Communications from Staff
- X. Communications from Committee
- XI. 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
December 6, 2011**

| <u>INDEX</u> | <u>ACTION TAKEN</u> | <u>PAGE(S)</u> |
|---|---|----------------|
| Cover page | | 1 |
| Call to Order | Chair called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm | 2 |
| Roll Call | A quorum was declared by verbal roll call, four absences. | 2 |
| Approval of Agenda | <i>Mr. Acosta moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i> <i>Friendly amendment to move A & B before New Business, accepted by Ms. Seluja.</i> | 2 |
| Approval of Minutes | <i>Mr. Topple moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2011 as presented, second by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i> | 3 |
| Announcements | Informational | 3 |
| Community Comments | Geno Zamora, City Attorney attended meeting and answered questions regarding liquor license approvals. | 3-4 |
| <u>Old Business</u> a. City Councilors' and/or Mayor's Amicus brief b. City Bond proposal for Southside improvement update c. Drivers' licenses for immigrants update | Informational. No formal action taken. | 4 |
| <u>New Business</u> a. <u>Mexican Consulate Representative – Ventanilla de Salud</u> | Informational, no formal action taken | 4-6 |
| <u>Welcome to:</u> | | |

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| <p>Mrs. Maria Otero, Coordinator of the Ventanilla de Salud Program Mr. Agustin Angeles, Community Affairs Department of the Consulate Lee Wong Medina, Consular Protection and Community Affairs of the Consulate Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, UNM</p> <p>b. <u>New Mexican Editorial Page</u> Inez Russell Gomez: Editorial Page Editor attends Immigration Committee Meeting – Q&A opportunity and nourishing working relationship.</p> | | |
| <p>Communications from Staff Communications from Committee</p> | <p>Ms. Diaz moved to approve the 2012 meeting dates as amended November 6th to the 13th, second by Chester Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</p> <p><i>Motion by Ms. Seluja to amend and change March 6 to March 13, second by Chester Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i></p> <p>No change on time of meeting.</p> | <p>6</p> |
| <p>Adjournment and Signature page</p> | <p>Mr. Acosta moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm, second by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</p> | <p>6</p> |

Immigration Committee

MINUTES

December 6, 2011 – 5:45 pm – 7:50 pm
City Councilors' Conference Room
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Immigration Committee was called to order at 5:55 pm by the Chair, Maria Cristina Lopez. Roll Call constitutes a quorum.

I. Roll Call

Members Present

Maria Cristina Lopez, Chair
Marcela Diaz
Miguel Angel Acosta
Chester Topple
Alejandra Seluja

Absent

Jewel Cabeza de Vaca
Betty Jean Shinas
Amparo Guerrero
Elizabeth Hemmer

Staff Present:

Carla Lopez, City of Santa Fe

Others Present:

Joey Peters, Santa Fe Reporter
Inez Russell Gomez, New Mexican
Mrs. Maria Otero, Coordinator of the Ventanilla de Salud Program
Mr. Agustin Angeles, Community Affairs Department of the Consulate
Lee Wong Medina, Consular Protection and Community Affairs of the Consulate
Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, UNM

Frances Lucero, Stenographer

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Acosta moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Friendly amendment to move A & B before New Business, accepted by Ms. Seluja.

Immigration Committee

III. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2011

Mr. Topple moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2011 as presented, send by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Announcements

Invitation to the Committee to attend the Somos un Pueblo Unido Fiesta this Friday. Flyers with specific information were provided.

V. Community Comments

Maria Cristina dialogue with Geno Zamora, City Attorney:

The Chair inquired about a question she had received from a business owner who had applied to the City Council for a special event liquor licenses for an event at Somos un Pueblo Unido. The request was presented and denied by the City Council. The applicant felt that the reasoning for the denial was not detailed. The Chair asked Geno Zamora from the city attorney's office what the law is for this type of request.

When a center is within 300 feet from a school, church or military facility the governing body by law can disapprove without criteria on the denial. Mr. Zamora provided a listing of the previously approved M&J event center special dispenser permits. Four out of the last five requests listed indicate the city council approvals on September 27, 2011. On the Quincienera and Miss Chica Latina NM there were concerns of having alcohol at these types of events. Councilors expressed concerns on the repetitive requests. On November 30th M&J made six requests for the month of December. RLD (Regulations and Licensing Department) expressed concerns to Ms. Cardona and to the City of Santa Fe that her six requests not be approved because of the extensive amount of special requests. Ms. Cardona refined her request to four requests for December. The Council voted to deny the 12 permits for this location as special permits as it seems that the center/night club was being run on special permits. All December permits were denied.

The difference with this particular applicant was the frequency and type of event. The explanation is the process of it being 300 ft. in proximity of a school and described to the committee as presented to the City Council. There is a broad concern and caused the issue to be reviewed by the state and communicated to the City of Santa Fe.

The Chair takes offense to the City Council questioning a tradition on a family celebration of quincieneras. It feels like immigrant owned businesses are being targeted and Ms. Cardona is making her living running an event center. The Chair petitioned Mr. Zamora to deliver the message to the council that they are clearer on how many licenses they will approve and the reasons for denial. Mr. Zamora said that there have been critical discussion on having alcohol at baseball/sport events and the concern is having alcoholic beverages where children are exposed to liquor. Questions have been raised in the context of quincieneras; no vote was made on the quincieneras. The City Council, regardless of the origin or the ownership of any location would not deny; one location seeking 12 permits in 3 months is excessive. We have diverse backgrounds and the council is very in tune with immigrant issues; this is a location and a requestor who made 12 requests in 3 months it is not based

Immigration Committee

on origin. Mr. Zamora said from state law perspective there is no limitation, the reality is that liquor licenses are expensive and members of the council asked Ms. Cardona, "why don't you apply for a liquor license?" The Council has always expressed their great support of the rights of immigrants.

Ms. Diaz stated that it is more important that we know that the City is giving adequate information regarding city services in Spanish. It is important for the Immigration Committee to assist and assure that there is bi-lingual information for our immigrant business owners.

Mr. Acosta reiterated the importance for the city to have a bi-lingual person who can communicate with the individual who are calling the City for information from departments for services. It is also important for this applicant in particular, to know what the parameters are when the individual in question feels like they have complied with the procedure.

VI. Old Business

- a. **City Councilors' and/or Mayor's Amicus brief** – it was thought that the case was in appeal and no one will file a friend of the court brief until the appeal is confirmed. Ms. Lopez confirmed that when the time is right we will file a friend of the court brief.
- b. **City Bond proposal for Southside improvement update – Mr. Acosta:** It passed in city council, tea party is lobbying against it trying to get the eastside to vote against this. Alejandra said that on behalf of the Guadalupe Credit Union, they had data on how people would be affected by the bond.
- c. **Drivers' licenses for immigrants update** – January 24 – Immigrant Day of Action at the State Capitol. A lot of work continues throughout the state conducting community meetings. The poll is being sent to the legislators this week.

VII. New Business

- a. **Mexican Consulate Representative – Ventanilla de Salud**

Welcome to:

Mrs. Maria Otero, Coordinator of the Ventanilla de Salud Program

Mr. Agustin Angeles, Community Affairs Department of the Consulate

Lee Wong Medina, Consular Protection and Community Affairs of the Consulate

Barbara Damron, PhD, RN, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, UNM

Mr. Medina spoke regarding the government funding available in Mexico which provides 100% health coverage in Mexico. Locally they have partnered to provide health care to the immigrant population. Money will be transferred from the Mexico fund and partnering with the Ventanilla de Salud. Ventanilla de Salud in Albuquerque has partnered with the UNM Cancer Center.

Dr. Damron provided information on the UNM Cancer Center and the ability to provide health care to everyone in this state. They are thrilled to be able to work with the Mexican Consulate in this state, it is an excellent relationship. Maria Otero from Dr. Damron's staff operates the programs in cooperation with Ventanilla de Salud. In addition to the cancer services they provide care on diabetes and substance abuse. Dr. Damron works diligently

Immigration Committee

and is dedicated to do pre-screening to detect cancer at the early stages and to provide top level care.

Ms. Maria Otero stated that the first Ventanilla de Salud was opened in January, 2011. There are days where they see up to 100 people a day and they offer educational resources. Many families throughout NM come to Albuquerque for services. They have had a lot of people coming from Arizona and Colorado; new immigrants to our state. There is an existing collaboration with El Paisano, Inc. who provides office space for this important endeavor. A calendar was provided indicating the dates for 2012 when they will be in Santa Fe.

Consumer protection has been very limited and Mexico is trying to expand these services. The VDS staff creates a relationship with the individuals to assure that they get serviced. As Ms. Otero commented about “navigating the people”, it is important to get to know the person(s) to know what services they need; it could lead into different needs. Mr. Medina said that it isn’t always passport or matricula assistance, there are legal or law enforcement needs for information and other needs that result from talking to the people.

Ms. Damron stated that they are advocates on the patient’s behalf with the hospital when there are questions and concerns regarding health care.

Mr. Acosta asked if any training is being done. Yes, in the cancer center they do training on cancer prevention and diabetes training. UNM is very involved in training promotoras. Mr. Acosta asked if there is any possibility of bringing this training to Santa Fe. The answer was, yes. That is a key to good health. Mr. Acosta will provide particular needs to Dr. Damron.

Secondly, question on partnership with a private enterprise. How did the federal government approve these types of relationships? Mr. Medina explained the process of cooperative relationships because of the strong support in the community.

Ms. Seluja said that the Guadalupe Credit Union Southside branch has increased in membership by 3200 members. Ms. Seluja asked how they could create a partnership with UNM Cancer Center/La Ventanilla de Salud.

Mr. Acosta and Mr. Angeles will pursue discussion on Plaza Comunitaria. The facilities do exist and assistance is available to pursue this type of project. It is important to reiterate that there are strong relationships for education and health from Mexico. It is important to empower the immigrant populations that are here. Seguro Popular is very important and set in place.

Thank you for this enlightening presentation.

b. **New Mexican Editorial Page**

Inez Russell Gomez: Editorial Page Editor –

'New Mexican' names new editorial page editor

Inez Russell Gomez became editorial page editor at *The Santa Fe New Mexican* publisher

Immigration Committee

Robin Martin announced.

Gomez replaces William Waters, who retired last week after more than 20 years in the position.

Gomez, an opinion columnist and substitute editorial writer for several years, has demonstrated the ability to maintain the high standards set by Waters, Martin said.

Gomez has edited the paper's specialty magazines — including *Bienvenidos* and *Indian Market* magazines — since 2005. Previously, she worked as editor of *The Taos News*, city editor at *The New Mexican* and an editor in Albuquerque, Texas and Florida.

A native of Las Vegas, N.M., she is a journalism graduate of Texas Tech University and holds a master's degree in public policy and communication from American University in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, David Gomez, a Santa Fe lawyer, are the parents of a 14-year-old son.

- The Chair complimented the editorial content and the style, it is very clear.
- Q&A: In the rest of the newspaper people are identified as undocumented or illegal immigrants and sometimes referred to as foreign nationals and where it doesn't have anything to do with the story. *It is important to gather samples of these types of stories and present the argument/case to the Managing Editor. In the past, Ms. Gomez was vocal on not stereotyping or using an identifier. Robin Martin is the owner. Illegal alien is not used at all.*
- It was stated that a lot of the soccer highlights from Mexico are never in the newspaper. The paper covers more of the local sports vs. leagues, etc., it would be recommended to contact the sports reporter to describe the interest of the reader. jbaron@sfnm.com
- Ms. Gomez tries to run things from Latin America or things that you won't read about somewhere else. She is trying to get some different things that you won't read elsewhere.
- It was noted that there are a lot of letters to the Editor from other states.
- Journal operates with an Editorial Board; the New Mexican does not. The New Mexican has an editorial process and direct communications with Robin the owner of the paper. There are limitations as to what can be written to make it a good editorial. Robin would like to see her editors out in the community to hear what the need is and what they would like to read.
- Ms. Diaz made mention that SOMOS staff had met with the Albuquerque Editorial Board and asked if they wanted to talk about specific topics, could they contact Ms. Gomez. Ms. Gomez said she would like to receive that information. Ms. Diaz said that one of the frustrations is the lack of nuance in our community. Ms. Diaz asked what the protocol to get information to Ms. Gomez is and she said send the information or press releases by e-mail. Ms. Gomez said that it is very important to have facts and supporting documents. Ms. Gomez reiterated that the more information she has the better opportunity she has to write a good editorial. Ms. Diaz said that this committee has done a lot of work on jail and law enforcement policies. SOMOS takes those policies and

Immigration Committee

works with other counties for example racial profiling is an important issue. The topic of drivers licenses will continue to be important in New Mexico and what people don't know is that drivers' licenses and tuition for undocumented students has always been discussed.

Thank you Ms. Russell-Gomez for coming to the meeting and participating with the committee.

Committee Business

Committees – next agenda. Create committees for topics of discussion.

VIII. Communications from Staff

a. Approval of 2012 meeting dates

Ms. Diaz moved to approve the 2012 meeting dates as amended November 6th to the 13th, second by Chester Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Ms. Seluja to amend and change March 6 to March 13, second by Chester Topple, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

No change on time of meeting.

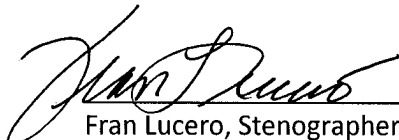
IX. Communications from Committee

X. Adjourn

Mr. Acosta moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm, second by Ms. Seluja, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Signature Page:

Maria Cristina Lopez, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer