



Agenda DATE 5/29/13 TIME 3:23p

PREPARED BY Terrie Rodriguez

APPROVED BY [Signature]

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

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. April 2, 2013
4. Announcements
5. Community Comments
5. Old Business
  - a. Immigration Town Hall Recap – Alejandra Seluja
  - b. Immigration reform status update - Marcela Diaz, Committee Member (Andrew Black, if present)
  - c. Presentation before Charter Commission Feedback – Alejandra Seluja
  - d. Letter to USCIS Abq Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Shilling Update – Alejandra Seluja
  - e. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February 2013 – Maria Cristina Lopez
6. New Business
  - a. Cecilia Tadfor's letter of Interest to serve on Committee – Alejandra Seluja
7. Communications from Staff
8. Communications from Committee
9. Next Meeting and Adjourn

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**Index Summary of Minutes  
Immigration Committee  
June 4, 2013**

<b>INDEX</b>	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b>	<b>PAGE(S)</b>
Cover Page		1
Call to Order	A regular meeting of the City of Santa Fe Immigration Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm by the Chair, Alejandra Seluja.	2
Roll Call	A quorum was not present at the time of roll call. No action was taken on items requiring a motion. Ms. Diaz arrived at 4:45 pm and a quorum was existent.	2
Approval of Agenda	<i>Maria Cristina Lopez moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2
Approval of Minutes April 12, 2013	<i>Ms. Diaz moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2
Announcements	Informational	2-3
Community Comments	Informational	3-5
Old Business a. Immigration Town Hall Recap b. Immigration Reform Status Update c. Presentation before Charter Commission Feedback d. Letter to UCIS Albuquerque Project Director, Patty Reynolds e. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February 2013 f.	Informational with staff follow up  <i>Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca moved to table Old Business d and e, second by Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	6-8
New Business a. Cecilia Tadfor's Letter of Interest to serve on Immigration	<i>Ms. Diaz moved to move forward the name of Cecilia Tadfor as a future</i>	8

**Index Summary of Minutes  
Immigration Committee  
June 4, 2013**

Committee	<i>Immigration Committee member, second by Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	
Communications from Staff	Informational	8
Communications from Committee	Informational	8
Next Meeting	July 10, 2013, 4:30 pm	9
Signature Page and Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm	9

**Immigration Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
June 4, 2013 – 4:15 p.m. – 6:15 pm

**1. Roll Call**

Alejandra Seluja, Chair for the Immigration Committee called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A quorum was declared at approximately 4:45 pm.

Present:

Alejandra Seluja, Chair  
María Cristina López  
Cara Esquibel  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca  
Marcela Diaz

Not Present

Elizabeth Hemmer  
Amparo Guerrero

Others Present

Terrie Rodriguez, Staff Liaison  
Julia Valdez, Santa Fe County  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer

Audience (identified in minutes)

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

April 12, 2013

*Ms. Diaz moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**4. Announcements**

Event: Homewise will sponsor an open house at Tierra Contenta, Zona del Sol from 5:30 – 7:30 pm – to create community awareness and to discuss health benefits. (Flyer will be sent to the Committee members to get the word out).

A Real Estate Brochure was passed around titled: We are Santa Fe. It was mentioned that the real estate listings do not even list homes from Santa Fe that are affordable.

Ms. Rodriguez talked about a recent meeting she attended with St. Vincent's Christus Hospital, Santa Fe County and the city to discuss collaboration on health measurements and assessments in our city. The meeting was to discuss the different related issues and the creation of a team who could provide information to create an Action Plan for the community. St. Vincent's is required to do an Action Plan on an annual basis as part of their accreditation and they are a strong member of this team. Ms. Rodriguez will send the executive summary to the committee for review.

Homewise offers two types of educational classes in Spanish to assist home buyers. There is one class coming up on Saturday followed by an additional class on Wednesday – it will be held from 9 am – 4 pm. The Chair asked the committee to get the word out for anyone who is interested.

## **5. Community Comments**

**Nuevo Mexico Dia – Dreamers in Action**

Juan Carlos served as the Moderator. He attends NM Highlands University; he has been raised in Santa Fe and has lived here for 17 years. The Chair allowed 15 minutes for presentations by the invitees.

### Other Invitees:

Miguel Angel Acosta was invited as he works closely with many of the kids involved in gangs.

Allegra Love, Immigration Attorney has been very involved with the youth on the Southside.

*Other listed names are by their comments below.*

DACA Application Process – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an executive order signed by President Obama in June 2012, allows young adults who arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16, under 30 years of age and attended a US high school, to apply for a work permit and a two-year renewable reprieve from deportation.

Juan Carlos: What is the work that Dreamers in Action are doing here in NM and throughout the Country? This endeavor is uniquely led by undocumented youth and is predominantly on college campuses. They also work with undocumented students, LGBT youth. Carlos explained and gave different examples of students who are being exposed to deportation. Since June 15, 2012 when DACA came to fruition we have all worked together on deferred action. Benefits are the legal protection, a work permit, and a US Social Security number.

The biggest challenge is the filing fee for deferred action. Many of the students on the south side cannot afford the \$465 fee and the immigration legal assistance fee. The estimated amount needed is approximately \$3000 per student.

Ms. Love said that there is also a fee exemption for those who cannot afford it. There has been massive outreach to provide information to the young people. The fee exemption is not an easy thing to get.

Carlos said that they have spoken to the Mayor and the Economic Development Department as they plan to organize a big DACA conference at the Geneva Chavez center. We would like for the Immigration Committee to partner and/or co-sponsor with us in August. As of May there have been 3,340 applications submitted from NM -- 1,911 DACA cases have been approved in NM. Approximately 10,000 undocumented youth qualify for DACA in New Mexico. Ms. Valdez from Santa Fe County asked what type of assistance Carlos is requesting from a partner or co-sponsor. Carlos said they are looking for funding; copying, space and pro-bono help. They are in hopes that the Mayor will allow them the use of the Geneva Center.

Udell Calzadillas Chavez: Applied to DACA in February, 2013. He now has his work permit and has also applied for his Social Security card. He is very happy that he now has his documents and he attends UNM. He is majoring in Political Science in Spanish and would like to work as an intern in a law office to gather more experience.

Carlos expressed his concern that DACA is a wonderful process and yet at the end of the day and after the lengthy process, all of these young individuals worry about their parents and family status.

**Ms. Juarez – Santa Fe High School Student**

Expressed her concern about how expensive the immigration lawyers are who provide services. Ms. Juarez has lived here for 14 years, she has all of her necessary paper work to apply for DACA and yet she is held back because of the cost. (She will receive help from Ms. Allegra Love).

Ms. Allegra Love spoke highly of the clinic process. She can assist these students to finalize their DACA application and is charging on a sliding fee scale of \$0-\$100 – and to note that to date no one has had to pay over \$100.

Miguel Acosta: One of the largest concerns students who drop out of school say; they don't have faith in being able to acquire their DACA. They would rather leave when they have the opportunity to work so they choose to do this. Knowing that they are not documented they don't see positive information or opportunity for them to move forward into the college world. Schools should be more supportive and provide information to these young people and their families to encourage them to pursue their education.

Hector: Has met with Representative Ben Ray Lujan and said he was very supportive and offered help. Rep. Lujan wants to know if there are any problems with our youth not being able to apply for their DACA's. Rep. Lujan knows of the clinic and hopefully will be able to attend and assist with questions.

Carlos reiterated and requested that the Immigration Committee become a co-sponsor and/or partner.

Ms. Esquibel asked if there are other lawyers besides Ms. Love volunteering for this clinic. Ms. Love said it is hard to get Pro-bono Attorney assistance as many of them would like to receive a minimal stipend. Ms. Esquibel and the Chair said they will do an outreach to legal counsel that they may know to assist in the clinic.

Ms. Diaz asked if a rough percentage could be provided on how many can or cannot afford the DACA application fee. Carlos said that it is probably 7 out of 10 families who cannot afford the fee for the application and the attorney fees.

Juan Carlos asked what the possibilities might be of a fund being created to assist with this fee. "If the City, County and the community could establish a fund to assist with the processing fee it would be easier to get students to apply."

Ms. Love said that once immigration reform happens it is going to be very expensive. If a family has 4-5 members in that family that qualify they will not be able to afford the related fees.

Juan Carlos did say that many of the individuals who have received their DACA are the mentors who are supporting and are helping others to complete their paperwork.

A question was raised about the concern of an individual working with a false social security card and the question was asked if there were any known cases of any retaliation from employers when they go back and provide the correct social security number. Discussion was held but direct and specific information was not available. The Chair will do research and invite someone from SSA to the next meeting to provide an update and information on this matter.

Nida Gallegos shared a concern on what happens to those who are undocumented and work with a fraudulent social security number and they end up with tax problems. Ms. Gallegos attends UNM and attended the last meeting to greet the Caravan guests. She is very interested in the work of the Immigration Committee and remained for the full meeting.

Tax concerns; this is a big topic of discussion that should be included at the workshop or clinic.

Juan Carlos will stay in contact with the Chair, Maria Cristina Lopez and both the City and County staff liaison to provide a list of their needs for the August clinic.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Immigration Town Hall Recap – Alejandra Seluja

The Town Hall meeting was well attended; great testimonials and very emotional. Some of those in attendance were City Councilors, County Commissioners, and members from the Santa Fe School Board, Congressional representation and members from the Immigration Committee.

Ms. Diaz commented that having the new City Councilors there and having them exposed to these presentations was very encouraging. It is important to have the local community leaders present and engaged in these conversations. Maria Cristina Lopez suggested that we follow up with the new City Councilors and invite them to one of the Immigration Committee meetings to keep them up to date on our topics of importance.

Santa Fe Public schools recently passed a Resolution (2012/13-26 on Comprehensive Immigration Reform on April 22, 2013 urging Congress and the President of the United States to Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform that Considers the Needs of Children and Youth.

The Town Hall was sponsored by the United Workers Center of NM, Unions, AFL-CIO and the Immigration Committee – Mayor’s Office.

### b. Immigration Reform Status Update – Marcela Diaz

All action right now is very positive, votes are strong in the Senate (SB744) – it will need to go through the House. There are concerns that the Gang of 8 will put work permits before enforcement. Information will continue to be provided to the committee as it is received. It was suggested that possible discussion with the NM Attorney General’s Office be pursued to get positive media and provide information to the public.

Ms. Diaz announced that they have teamed up with MALDEF to discuss the concerns with the NM Tax and Revenue Department. An IPRA request has been initiated to request the information on the tax concerns and collections. The Chair provided past information on the letter that went out from TRD to the worker and what they needed to follow up with. Should there be any people who need assistance or additional information, they can be referred to SOMOS.

### c. Presentation before Charter Commission Feedback – Alejandra Seluja

The Chair reported that they went before the Charter Commission and briefly presented information on the work of the Immigration Committee. The Chair, Maria Cristina Lopez and Ms. Diaz have attended Commission meetings at different times and provided feedback. It was noted that the Commission referred to policy statements. Specific questions were asked and one was; “do immigrants have problems with abuse in the city?” The response was yes, that there have



been abuse cases reported through the City Police Department. There were also topics regarding wages.

Ms. Diaz attended the meeting of the Charter Review Committee on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Farber stated in the minutes of May 9<sup>th</sup> that the Chair of the Immigration Committee said they wanted a charter that tracks with the language of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Romero-Wirth said the proposed language is, "No municipal resources will be used to identify or apprehend any non-citizen resident on the sole basis of immigration status, unless otherwise required by law to do so. It was clarified that this request was for it to be included as a Charter Amendment. The minutes of the Charter Review Commission meeting of May 9, 2013 provide more detail on their discussion of policy statements. The Charter Review Commission welcomes more dialogue.

Maria Christine Lopez statement in the minutes talked about the City Council adopting a Resolution in 1999 which has served as a guide to the Police Department and other agencies in the City in relation to Immigrants. She said, "What we wanted to do is to have the City Charter include something to the effect that it has been an important part of our City since 1999, and it has made Santa Fe as an example for many cities in the United States, that we respect the rights of everyone, regardless of national origin or immigration status. And from there, we have worked with the Police Department on regulations and policies." Ms. Lopez said they could to a more general statement if it isn't appropriate to have such specific wording in the Charter from the Resolution.

Ms. Diaz; after reviewing the charter provided the following suggestion to present to the Charter Review Commission. Ms. Diaz said it reads national origin and the last one says citizenship status. We read proxy about immigration status. We think that when they put that in, that is what they were thinking. They don't want to adopt any policies based on immigration status and there is a big difference when using the term citizenship. We recommended that a simple change be made as there are many kinds of immigration status, named all of the legal immigration status. If you just take out the word citizenship and add immigration status this will be closer to what you are looking for.

- d. Letter to UCIS Albuquerque Director Patty Reynolds and State Police Chief Schilling Update – Alejandra Seluja  
Tabled to next meeting.**
- e. Captain Wheeler Update on Complaint Presented in February 2013 – Maria Cristina Lopez  
Tabled to next meeting.**

*Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca moved to table Old Business d and e, second by Ms. Maria Cristina Lopez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**7. New Business**

- a. **Cecilia Tadfor's Letter of Interest to serve on Committee – Alejandra Seluja**  
Jewel Cabeza de Vaca offered a strong recommendation on the strengths and background of Ms. Tadfor and spoke highly of what her contributions would be as a member of the Immigration Committee, she would be an asset.

*Ms. Diaz moved to move forward the name of Cecilia Tadfor as a future Immigration Committee member, second by Ms. Cabeza de Vaca, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

Ms. Diaz conveyed that Rev. Topple had shared a strong interest from the Muslim Community to participate and have representation on the Immigration Committee. It was recommended that a name be obtained in order to do an outreach to them.

Ms. Cabeza de Vaca asked how an outreach could be made to other immigration communities. Santa Fe County has done an excellent job to outreach; the city has not taken that opportunity. Ms. Valdez from Santa Fe County suggested that the City utilize any free media and public relations to get the word out on who the Immigration Committee is and welcome other groups to attend the meeting. Ms. Rodriguez informed the committee that the city website is being re-structured and that would be a good forum to add information on the Immigration Committee.

Ms. Diaz said it would be nice to have Jodi Porter attend a future meeting as the new PIO for the City.

Ms. Jewel Cabeza de Vaca recommended that the Immigration Committee find a radio slot where they could provide information once a week. Ms. Cabeza de Vaca would like to talk to KSFR as she does a weekly health program interview and would like permission to ask if they could interview someone from the Immigration Committee. Ms. Rodriguez will follow up as staff liaison to the Immigration Committee. It might be possible to be invited to the Mayor's weekly show. Ms. Cabeza de Vaca reiterated the consistency in creating awareness on a weekly basis is very important.

**8. Communications from Staff**

Follow up on letter to Superintendent Boyd. A response has not been received and an appointment to meet with the Superintendent has not been set. It was recommended that the Staff Liaison contact the Chief of Staff in the Superintendent's office to request a meeting. Ms. Rodriguez will follow up and invite him to the next meeting.

**9. Communications from the Committee**

Ms. Esquibel would like to ask that Captain Wheeler attend the next meeting to follow up on items from past agendas.


**10. Next Meeting – July 10, 2013 – Wednesday  
4:30 pm**

**11. Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Immigration Committee, Ms. Cabeza de Vaca moved to adjourn at 6:30 pm, second by Ms. Diaz, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Signature Page:**

  
Alejandra Seluja, Chair

  
Fran Lucero, Stenographer