

Late Backup

Item No. 49

3/20/2014

Initiated by Council Member Martinez

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is home to diverse immigrant populations and we welcome them in our city; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey approximately 19% of Austin residents are foreign-born; and

WHEREAS, immigrants comprise a vital part of our local workforce and approximately one-third (150,006) of the local labor force is made up of individuals who speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to the public safety, health and quality of life of all residents regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, [sexual orientation, gender identity,] and physical or mental disability; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned commitment is reflected in the existence of the Commission on Immigrant Affairs to advise the city council on issues of common concern to immigrants, particularly in the areas of health and human services, education, and the demographic makeup of the Austin immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of 2013, the Commission on Immigrant Affairs has been gathering input from local immigrant service

providers about their work, their needs, and about how the City of Austin might better support the provision of services to the immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, this input has resulted in an increased awareness of: the large variety of immigrant service providers in the City of Austin that are not connected to existing service provider networks; the variety of immigrant needs based on populations of origin; and the degree to which the issues and barriers these service providers face impacts all the service sectors; and

WHEREAS, the potential for immigration reform, the implementation of healthcare reform, the diversity of Austin's current and incoming immigrant populations, and existing barriers to immigrant service integration, are challenges to, and a hindrance in the delivery of services to the immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is a part of Welcoming America's Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, and Austin formally proclaimed itself a Welcoming City on September 19th, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the conditions for a Welcoming City include: Engaging all relevant sectors, such as government, business, non-profit, and to work together to create a welcoming community climate that supports long-term integration of immigrant communities; a commitment to institutionalizing strategies that ensure the ongoing inclusion and long-term economic and social integration of newcomers; and engaging newcomers and long-time residents to find common ground and shared leadership; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to engage community stakeholders, including City departments, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and other government entities in defining the vision for Austin as a Welcoming City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to take steps to insure that the community engagement process include partnering with the Commission on Immigrant Affairs in facilitating the City of Austin's first Immigrant Affairs Conference: "Austin: A Welcoming City" to provide a forum for service providers to participate in targeted discussions to share and learn about available resources; to work towards a collaborative, efficient approach to the provision of services through facilitated networking; and to begin troubleshooting current and future issues that will affect Austin's immigrant population.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014 **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk