



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

Commission on Immigrant Affairs **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

- (A) 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;
- (B) monitor requirements of federal, state, and local immigration, welfare and other laws that affect immigrants, and recommend to the city council actions to maximize the benefits to local immigrants under existing laws and to minimize the adverse impacts to local immigrants under the laws;
- (C) promote recognition of the contributions of the foreign-born to the economic and cultural vitality of Austin; and
- (D) promote the availability of, and promote accessibility to, local educational, economic, legal, and social resources for immigrants.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

Here are the major actions during the 2017-2018 year:

- 1) We held a Town Hall on SB4 on 10/9/17, in which Mayor Adler, Chief Manley, and Sheriff Hernandez presented about SB4 implementation. It was attended by community service agencies and advocates.
- 2) We worked towards opening a Welcoming City Office, or an Immigrant Affairs Liaison. We included this in our budget resolution, 20180611-006a6. City Council directed the City Manager to study this request.
- 3) We attended meetings with ACLU People Power groups

- 4) We participated with Cities United for Action
- 5) We participated in the Joint Inclusion Commission, although our participation was curtailed a bit in the transition of commission members
- 6) We passed a resolution that the APD use cite and release more often
- 7) We continued to advocate with APD regarding their policy of denying U visa certifications if the offense is past the statute of limitations, including helping to write a letter to APD and signing off on it, and inviting APD to one of our meetings to discuss this
- 8) We passed a resolution to assist refugees with affordable housing, 20180212-004B, and we included it in our budget resolution, 20180611-006a6
- 9) We have been planning to hold an Immigrant Heritage Festival, currently scheduled for June 2019
- 10) We started a volunteer community liaison program with APD, partnering with the Austin Bar Association's Immigration and Civil Rights Section, in which we will receive requests from the community about denials of requests for U visa certifications, and present any wrongful denials to the APD
- 11) We met with the Travis County District Attorney's office to discuss concerns about potential changes in policy about U visa certifications
- 12) We attended a press conference held by LULAC regarding Municipal IDs, which relates back to our past resolution that the City of Austin issue Municipal IDs
- 13) We invited APD to our April 2018 meeting to discuss SB4 implementation and U visas
- 14) We attended a community Iftar with city representatives
- 15) We passed resolution 20180409-006A3, requesting that the City participate in the lawsuit against including a citizenship question in the Census
- 16) We passed budget resolution 20180611-006a6, in which we requested funding for an Immigrant Liaison, housing assistance for refugees, legal services funding for immigrants, funding for an Immigrant Heritage Festival, and funding for citizenship fairs. The City Council approved an item that included the Immigrant Liaison and the citizenship fairs
- 17) We attended and spoke on a panel at the Community Journalist Conference

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

Here is a list of the actions noted in question 1, with a listing of which part of the mission statement it fulfilled:

- 1 – A, B, D
- 2 – A, B, C, D
- 3 – A, B
- 4 – A, B
- 5 – A, B, D
- 6 – A, B, D

- 7 – A, B, D
- 8 – A, D
- 9 – C
- 10 – A, B, D
- 11 – B, D
- 12 – A, D
- 13 – A, B, D
- 14 – D
- 15 – A, B, D
- 16 – A, B, C, D
- 17 – C, D

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

- a) We hope to hold an Immigrant Heritage Festival in June of 2019
- b) We will work with the City Manager's office to develop the idea of having a Welcoming City office or an Immigrant Affairs liaison
- c) We want to increase our presence in the immigrant and refugee community and encourage members of the community to bring items of concern to us
- d) We intend to increase our participation in community coalitions, so that community groups and agencies can bring items of concern to our attention