



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

Commission on Immigrant Affairs

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 2018-2019 year:

- 1) We worked towards opening an Immigrant Affairs Office. We met with the staff who was preparing the report for the City Manager's office and had a briefing on the progress on the report.
- 2) We participated with Cities United for Action, including attending their National Convening in Atlanta and participating in their national and state conference calls and planning efforts and coalition building

- 3) We participated in the Joint Inclusion Committee, including joining with them on budget recommendations
- 4) We did not hold the Immigrant Heritage Festival that we hoped to have in June of 2019 due to lack of budget, but we participated in the Feria de Salud with the Department of Health in May of 2019
- 5) We implemented the volunteer community liaison program with APD, partnering with the Austin Bar Association's Immigration and Civil Rights Section, in which we reviewed 6 requests from the community about denials of requests for U visa certifications, and presented wrongful denials to the APD
- 6) We participated in the Immigrant Services Network of Austin
- 7) We had a briefing from Chief Manley of APD regarding APD's reports on ICE cooperation, APD's policy manual regarding ICE cooperation, and statistics on the U visa program
- 8) We heard presentations from Austin Public Health, Office of the Police Monitor, JOLT, Immigrants Working Initiative, NHCD, Girl Forward, and the Language Access program
- 9) We hosted a community budget forum, and developed six budget recommendations, Resolutions 20190429-5AI through -5AVI
- 10) We participated in planning retreats with the Joint Inclusion Committee
- 11) We presented at the State Bar of Texas Committee on Laws Relating to Nationality regarding the work of the Commission

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, C, D
- 2 – A, B, D
- 3 – A, B, C, D
- 4 – D
- 5 – A, B, D
- 6 – A, B, D
- 7 – A, B, D
- 8 – A, B, C, D
- 9 – A, C, D
- 10 – A, B, D
- 11 – B, D

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

- a) We will work with the City Manager's office to create an Immigrant Affairs Office
- b) We want to establish our presence in the immigrant and refugee community and encourage members of the community to bring items of concern to us by holding community forums

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- c) We will continue to increase and expand our participation in community coalitions, so that community groups and agencies can bring items of concern to our attention
- d) We will continue to participate in statewide and national conversations with organizations like Cities for Action to better the situation for immigrants in Austin
- e) We will work with city and county officials to ensure that they understand how the new public charge rules, once released, affect the immigrant community in Austin
- f) We will participate in the budget process more fully
- g) We will begin a strategic plan process