



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

September 9, 2013

Honorable Shawn T. Wooden, Council President, and
Members of the Court of Common Council
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs

Dear Council President Wooden:

Attached for your consideration is an ordinance creating a new Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs.

The idea for such a commission grew out of the Hartford Public Library's Immigrant Advisory Group (IAG), which consists of service providers and other community stakeholders who provide services to and interact with immigrants in the Greater Hartford area. The IAG identified three action priorities: 1) to legitimize and elevate in importance the issues of new arrivals, 2) to create a means for immigrant voices to be heard and understood, and 3) to provide a way for immigrants to become civically engaged in the community. After extensive discussion, the IAG concluded that a City commission would provide the appropriate mechanism for achieving these priorities.

An ad hoc committee was formed consisting of individuals from a variety of countries, backgrounds, and ethnicities. The committee was then formalized by a resolution of the Court of Common Council creating a Task Force for the purpose of creating and writing an ordinance to create a Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs. The attached ordinance reflects the work of the Task Force. Members of the Task Force look forward to discussing their recommendations with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone (860) 757-9500
Facsimile (860) 722-6606