

## **Ad Hoc Committee on Development of a Commission on Immigrant Issues Meeting Notes March 13, 2013**

Present: Fernando Marroquin, Diana Ali, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick, Janet Bauer, Rafael Pichardo, Nancy Caddigan, Letty Cotto, and Homa Naficy. Linda Bayer facilitated.

Rafael, Janet and Fernando reported on the City Council's public hearing concerning the establishment of a task force to create a commission. Rafael spoke and Janet supported him. The presentation was well-received. The task force resolution will be discussed by the Council's Quality of Life, Public Safety, and Housing Committee on March 19<sup>th</sup> and folks were encouraged to attend. It was agreed that this process is a means of gauging the receptivity of the Council to a commission.

The group reviewed the work accomplished at the previous meeting and made the following decisions. The name of the commission shall be the Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs (CRIA). Membership will have no residency requirement and shall not be restricted to U.S. citizens. Membership shall be reflective of the diversity of the immigrant and refugee population. Diversity shall include geography, language, immigration status, background, and ethnicity. Members shall serve 2-year overlapping terms and shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The commission will adopt bylaws which will include attendance requirements and a process for electing officers. Officers shall include a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer all of which shall be chosen by the commission.

The question was raised as to whether elected officials or individuals running for office may be members of the commission. There was not consensus on this question.

Fernando informed the group that SEIU, the union which represents building janitorial staff, is very interested in and supportive of the creation of a commission

Homa and Rafael agreed to do some research about undocumented immigrants serving on commissions.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.

*Prepared by L.A. Bayer, Facilitator*