

Agenda Item: ID#19-1185 (4-A)

Date: 2/14/19

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FRESNO CITY COUNCIL

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Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID#19-1185 (4-A)

Contents of Supplement: Support Letters

Item(s)

RESOLUTION – Establishing an “Immigrant Affairs Committee” – Councilmember Chavez and Councilmember Soria

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

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2019 FEB -8 P 12:47

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National Latino Public Radio Network
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February 7, 2019

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KTQX 90.1 FM
KVUH 88.5 FM
5005 E. Belmont Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 455-5777 (ph)
(559) 455-5750 (admin. fax)
(559) 455-5778 (news fax)

Salinas Office
KHDC 90.9 FM
161 Main Street, Suite #4
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 757-8039 (ph)
(831) 757-9854 (fax)

El Centro Office
KUBO 88.7 FM
c/o Imperial Valley College
380 E. Aten Rd.
South Information Room
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 337-8051 (ph)
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Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

Dear Mayor Brand:

Radio Bilingüe, a Fresno nonprofit is in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in dozens of cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide advice and information to the City of Fresno.

It is difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the education system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized U. S. citizens at Fresno's Valdez Hall; yet, there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley; this means that only about 9,600 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the central valley, continuously grows with its immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them.

That is why Radio Bilingüe asks that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (559) 455-5757 or via e-mail hugom@pacbell.net.

Sincerely,

Hugo Morales
Executive Director
Radio Bilingüe, Inc.

CC: Fresno City Council



January 24, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

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Operations & Financial Office

1710 East Indian School Road
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85016
Tel 602.263.2036
Fax 602.264.8387

Mi Familia Vota, writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the central valley, continuously grows in it's immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them.

That is why Mi Familia Vota asks that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and

support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (559) 473-6096 or via e-mail Samuelm@mifamiliavota.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Molina', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samuel Molina
California State Director
Mi Familia Vota

HMONG
INNOVATING
POLITICS



January 24, 2018

Honorable Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Support for the City of Fresno Immigrant Affairs Committee

Dear Mayor Lee Brand:

Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) is writing to express strong support for the establishment of the City of Fresno Immigrant Affairs Committee. As a city with over 100 languages spoken, the City of Fresno has the opportunity to work in partnership with community members to ensure every Fresnan, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or place of origin, can comfortably call Fresno home.

Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) is a grassroots organization whose mission is to strengthen the political power of Hmong and disenfranchised communities through innovative civic engagement and strategic grassroots mobilization. Since establishing in 2012, HIP is committed to empowering historically disenfranchised communities, such as immigrant communities, with the skills, knowledge and capacity to become active change agents on issues such as education, health, immigration, civil and human rights.

In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our community and it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. As our city grows and develops, it is more important than ever for Fresno to support immigrant families and their role in our democracy.

Hmong Innovating Politics strongly urges your support for the formal establishment of the Immigrant Affairs Committee and is prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mai Thao
Central Valley Civic Engagement Director
Hmong Innovating Politics

CC: Fresno City Council

WWW.HIPCALIFORNIA.COM
FRESNO, CA | 2600 VENTURA STREET, FRESNO, CA 93727



El Concilio de Fresno, Inc.
Office: 1515 E. Divisadero Street, Suite 107
Mail: P.O Box 4236
Fresno, CA 93744-4236

February 5, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mayor Brand,

On behalf of El Concilio de Fresno, I write to express our enthusiastic support to the City of Fresno in its effort to establish an Immigrant Affairs Committee. We firmly believe that an Immigrant Affairs Committee would provide a much-needed service to an underserved population of new community immigrants and assist them to better integrate into our community and society.

We realize it may be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our ever growing city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 700 legal permanent residents become naturalized here in Fresno's Valdez Hall. In the Central San Joaquin Valley there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents of which approximately 8,000 become naturalized each year. Also, a report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them.

It is for the above reasons that we support and request that the City of Fresno establish an Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Eddie Varela, President
El Concilio de Fresno, Inc.

CC: Fresno City Council

**“Sharing Christ’s Love To
Build Communities of Hope
With New Americans.”**



**1940 N Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703
Phone: (559) 487-1500
Fax: (559) 487-1550
Website: www.firminc.org
E-Mail: zachd@firminc.org**

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Community Gardens
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CSN FIRM Preschool
Boys and Men of Color
Social Services
Community Playground
Ethnic Church Host**

**REFUGEE GROUPS
SERVED**

**Hmong
Laotian
Cambodian
Ukrainian/Slavic
African
Syrian
And More!**

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM) writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee (IAC) in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno as it pertains to a vital population that is in our community.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno’s Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

As FIRM serves the large immigrant community, many of these come through our citizenship/civics classes we offer daily on our campus. FIRM annually serves over 10,000 legal permanent residents from throughout the whole world that have come to live their lives in our city. While we provide a great deal of direct and support services, we could not possibly meet the needs of the immigrant community on our own. We need partners and we would hope that an IAC would help us more closely partner with the City of Fresno and others to improve available services that are provided in a culturally and linguistically competent manner.

That is why FIRM asks that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (559) 283-1006 or via e-mail at zachd@firminc.org.

Sincerely,

Zachary D. Darrah, Executive Director

CC: Fresno City Council

“I’m laying a FIRM foundation...no one who trusts in it will ever be disappointed.” Isaiah 28:16



January 30, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

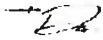
The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, through its Bishop, Canon, Dean, and Deacons, writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide information and recommendations to the City of Fresno.

We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our city, and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. There are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley, and each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized in Fresno's Valdez Hall. As you can imagine, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to navigate the community, its political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena.

Along with the rest of the central valley, the immigrant population of Fresno continues to grow. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community; immigrants alone contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed. One potential area of study for an Immigrant Affairs Committee could be what outreach might be done to maximize immigrant employment and thus produce new tax revenues for the city. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible.

The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin supports the establishment Immigrant Affairs Committee to the benefit of both the City of Fresno and the immigrants themselves. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 559-439-5011.

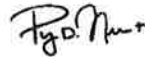
Sincerely,



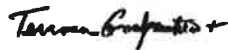
The Rt. Rev. David C.
Rice, Bishop



The Rev. Canon Anna
Carmichael, Ph.D., Canon
to the Ordinary



The Very Rev. Ryan D.
Newman, Dean, St. James
Episcopal Cathedral



The Rev. Nancy Key,
Deacon, St. James
Episcopal Cathedral

The Rev. Terrance
Goodpasture, Deacon, St.
James Episcopal Cathedral

CC: Fresno City Council

Camille K. Cook



Attorney at Law
Certified Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law
State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

2014 Tulare Street, Suite 702, Fresno, CA 93721
559.558.5118 • Fax: 888.511.2218
camille@camillecooklaw.com

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the central valley, continuously grows in it's immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them.

That is why I ask that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at (559) 558-5118 or via e-mail camille@camillecooklaw.com.

Sincerely,

Camille K. Cook

Attorney

Law Office of Camille K. Cook, Inc.

CC: Fresno City Council



January 18, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council
Fresno City Hall
Fresno, California

Dear Mayor Brand and City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Jakara Movement, I am writing to support a resolution calling for the establishment of an Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee and designating the City of Fresno as a Welcoming City.

The Jakara Movement is the largest Sikh youth organizing nonprofit in the United States with offices across the state of California and chapters throughout the nation. We were founded and our largest base of support is here in the City of Fresno. With a membership of over 400 students in the city alone and servicing a community of over 40,000 across the county, we are extremely excited about this initiative and wish to share our support.

The City of Fresno is fortunate to have a rich history that includes the presence of immigrants from all over the world. Their contributions, and those of their descendants, have enhanced the economy, society, culture and democratic life in Fresno, the Central Valley and the State of California. Nonetheless, important gaps exist in the City government's responses to the phenomenon of international migration, limiting the potential benefits to the city, region and state. Unlike many other cities and counties in our nation, for example, Fresno has no immigration affairs advisory committee to identify opportunities and help the city address challenges.

The Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee can meet the challenging demands our immigrant community face in the City of Fresno, and it has the potential to bring about numerous benefits to Fresno residents in general. Specifically, through the formation of the Committee, the Jakara Movement sees significant benefits to the Punjabi Sikh community and beyond. The Committee, among other goals, would be in a position to advance immigrant integration; promote important tools, such as English language learning and vocational training; fight fraudulent immigration services that prey on families and children; and foster a culture of tolerance and a welcoming environment for newly arrived immigrants, like unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children, in Fresno.

The Jakara Movement is eager to work with the City of Fresno to help design, develop and implement such an initiative. We look forward to your support for the resolution and its unanimous adoption.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naindeep Chann", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Naindeep Chann
Executive Director



THE FRESNO C E N T E R

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

The Fresno Center, writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Office of Immigrant Affairs in the Central Valley. The Office of Immigrant Affairs has been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities, offices have been created in; San Jose, New York city, Philadelphia and many others. The purpose of the Office of Immigrant Affairs would be to allow members of the community to come to a centralized and trusted location to receive much needed information that can help them to better integrate into our society.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the central valley, continuously grows in its immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue.

A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them. That is why we The Fresno Center ask that the City of Fresno establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Pao Yang
Executive Director

CC: Fresno City Council

- **SEIU-UHW**
- **Faith in the Valley**
- **Planned Parenthood MarMonte**
- **Californians for Justice**
- **AFSC Pan Valley Institute**
- **Reading and Beyond**
- **Jakara Movement**
- **Every Neighborhood Partnership**
- **SEIU 2015**
- **Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings County Central Labor Council**
- **Beneficial State Bank**
- **The Fresno Center**



CENTRO LA FAMILIA
ADVOCACY SERVICES
FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

OUR MISSION:

*"providing services that empower
and support families and individuals
in our culturally diverse community"*

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

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Kim Kimura, Treasurer
Owner, Kasco Fab, Inc., Fresno

Sue Kern, Secretary
Attorney, Fresno Superior Court

Elizabeth Diaz
Attorney, Chief, Public Defender,
Fresno County

Rogelio Fernandez M.D.
Staff Physician,
Adventist Hospitals

Camille Cook
Certified Immigration Specialist
Law Office of Camille K. Cook

Corinne L. Florez, MSW
Title IV-E Child Welfare Program
Coordinator, California State
University Fresno, RET.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Margarita Rocha
Executive Director

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

Centro La Familia Advocacy Services, writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the central valley, continuously grows in its immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensuring they take advantage of the resources available to them.



CENTRO LA FAMILIA
ADVOCACY SERVICES
FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

OUR MISSION:

*"providing services that empower
and support families and individuals
in our culturally diverse community"*

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Sue Kern, Secretary
Attorney, Fresno Superior Court

Elizabeth Diaz
Attorney, Chief, Public Defender,
Fresno County

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Staff Physician,
Adventist Hospitals

Camille Cook
Certified Immigration Specialist
Law Office of Camille K. Cook

Corinne L. Florez, MSW
Title IV-E Child Welfare Program
Coordinator, California State
University Fresno, RET.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Margarita Rocha
Executive Director

That is why Centro La Familia Advocacy Services ask that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 559-237-2961 or via e-mail at mrocha@centrolafamilia.org

Sincerely,

Margarita Rocha
Executive Director

CC: Fresno City Council



January 17, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council
Fresno City Hall
Fresno, California, 93721

Dear Mayor Brand and City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC), I am writing to support a resolution which calls for the establishment of an Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee and designates the City of Fresno as a Welcoming City.

The City of Fresno is fortunate to have a rich history that includes the presence of immigrants from all over the world. Their contributions, and those of their descendants, have enhanced the economy, society, culture and democratic life in Fresno, the Central Valley and the State of California. Nonetheless, important gaps exist in the City government's responses to the phenomenon of international migration, limiting the potential benefits to the city, region and state. Unlike many other cities and counties in our nation, for example, Fresno has no immigration affairs advisory committee to identify opportunities and help the city address challenges.

Such an initiative is greatly needed in the city and has the potential to bring about numerous benefits to Fresno residents in general.

A City of Fresno Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee can be charged with addressing many priority issues, such as the consideration of strategies for:

- The promotion of naturalization among the thousands of potentially eligible permanent residents in Fresno (23,160 in the City of Fresno, according to the Center for Migration Studies; nearly 60,000 in Fresno County).
- Ensuring complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census, a process that will be more complicated than usual due to changes adopted by the Census Bureau.
- The promotion of English language learning by adult and young immigrants.
- Advancing opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurship, thereby stimulating the local economy with increased economic activity, greater tax revenue and the creation of more employment opportunities.
- Identifying state, federal and private funding for immigration-related projects that can be carried out in conjunction with local organizations.
- Leading efforts to fight fraudulent immigration services.
- Improving language access policies and practices in city agencies.
- Fostering a culture of tolerance.

CVIIC

Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative

- Stimulating civic engagement in our democratic system and work to eliminate barriers to voter education and participation.
- The promotion of know your rights campaigns.
- Promoting educational opportunities for immigrants at all levels, from Pre-K to higher education.
- Collaborating with immigrant serving organizations and networks, like CVIIC, to maximize the impact of existing local resources and coordinate public, nonprofit and private sector activities.

The presence of immigrants in the City of Fresno is notable: according to the Census Bureau, 20.7% of the city's 522,053 residents in 2016 were foreign-born. Moreover, we live in the Central Valley, a region with an economy that has one of the highest dependence on immigrant labor. Immigrants in our region constitute a sizable population: from San Joaquin to Kern County there are some 900,000 immigrants.

CVIIC was created in Fresno in 2014 to bring together nonprofit agencies, legal services providers, community based organizations, pro bono attorneys, educational and other public sector institutions, health care providers and advocates to better serve these immigrant residents and their family members. Since CVIIC was created in 2014, our regional collaboration has made it possible to organize hundreds of legal services workshops to help immigrant families apply for naturalization, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), U-Visas, and other programs. In addition, we have held hundreds of informational events and know your rights presentations on immigration, health access, educational opportunities, among others.

This accumulated experience has enabled us to understand many of the challenges and opportunities that exist in the region to promote the integration of immigrants into our local communities. It also enables us to understand the potential value of having the City of Fresno more directly involved in addressing immigration-related matters. The Advisory Committee can be a very valuable resource to accomplish this.

The demographic presence of immigrants in Fresno alone justifies the creation of the Advisory Committee. Fresno's proportion of foreign-born residents is nearly identical to that of Chicago, Illinois, a city that has long acknowledge the value of local level policies seeking to integrate immigrants. For example, in 2011 it created the Office of New Americans and adopted an ambitious and pathbreaking "New Americans Plan". In contrast, in 2012 Fresno was regarded as a local government that ranked last in the state of California in immigrant integration, according to a study conducted by the University of Southern California Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration.

It is time to undo this legacy of neglect in an important policy-making area. Cities like Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Jose, and many other small and medium sized communities, have demonstrated that city-led immigrant integration initiatives are viable and can be successful.

Demographic significance is not the only factor leading us to propose the creation of the Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee. We also support the creation of other reasons, including the following:

CVIIC

Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative

- Such a city initiative can help immigrant residents reach their full economic, civic, social, cultural, educational and entrepreneurial potential.
- The institutional infrastructure to assist immigrant families in Fresno and the region is severely underdeveloped and requires attention from an entity that can devote attention to the issue of immigration and to the integration of immigrants.
- The City of Fresno can play a catalyst role in the region and spur other local governments to also adopt their own initiatives and participate in regional efforts.
- Numerous examples of successful municipal initiatives exist, offering opportunities to evaluate best practices.
- A dedicated group, such as the proposed Advisory Committee, can also provide suggestions to improve the efficiency and success of current city programs which might impact immigrant families.

CVIIC and partner agencies, are eager to work with the City of Fresno to help make the Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee a success.

We look forward to your support for the resolution and its unanimous adoption.

Sincerely,



Jesus Martinez, Ph.D.
Executive Director,
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)
4290 E. Ashlan Ave., Fresno, CA 93726
jesus@jesusmartinez.org
Tel: 559 307-7941

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

The Fresno County Democratic Party writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month, approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized, here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley meaning that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the Central Valley, continuously grows in its immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are more than 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute more than \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue because we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensure they take advantage of the resources available to them.

That is why Fresno County Democrats ask that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities, and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 559-495-0606 or via e-mail at evansm@usa.net.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Evans
Chair, Fresno County Democratic Party

cc: Fresno City Council



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January 23, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

The United Farm Workers Foundation (UFW Foundation) writes this letter in support for the City of Fresno resolution in its effort to establish the first-ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. The UFW Foundation is a dynamic nonprofit organization established in 2006 with the core purpose of empowering communities to ensure human dignity. We serve over 90,000 immigrants annually through a holistic approach; we provide critical services and engage our constituents in systemic change to break the cycle of poverty. Our regional offices—including one located in Fresno, California—are safe havens that provide resources and services such as credible immigration legal advice and act as hubs for educational outreach and organizing. In addition, our organization works to civically engage farm workers and Latinos nationally in the democratic process by telling their story, voting and advocating for more equitable policies.

The majority of our members are farm workers. Most farm workers are immigrants. The many farm workers that reside or work in Fresno County are an essential part of our economy, our food and agriculture systems, and our communities. More than 500,000 farm workers bring their skills and hard work to help put food from our state's abundant fields on the tables of Fresno homes. The contributions of these individuals who help cultivate the food that feeds our country, state, and city, sustain what is today a \$47 billion agriculture industry. Immigrants have helped expand labor-intensive agricultural commodities and have helped control production costs in recent years by providing the necessary supply of labor. Particularly in California's Central Valley, the large number of immigrant farm laborers working in the farm sector has notably enhanced the state's share of agricultural production in U.S. and global markets.



We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our city and believe that in order to support our immigrant community we must work and collaborate with our City Council to offer insights of key developments among the immigrant community. Through the Immigrant Affairs Committee in Fresno, we can continue to bring opportunities to our immigrant community and help provide immense benefit to the entire Fresno community.

Through this collaboration we hope to discuss issues of immigration policy, immigration legal services and advise the Council on issues related to immigrants within the City consistent with the purpose and intent of the attached resolution. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley, and approximately only about 8,000 become naturalized each year. By reaching out and providing educational resources locally in Fresno we can help bring a unique voice to the table when working on statewide and national collaborative efforts to change farm worker and immigrants' rights policies.

Again, the UFW Foundation supports the resolution to work with our partners and the City of Fresno to establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 559-496-0700 or via e-mail slugo@ufwfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Sara Lugo
Regional Director
UFW Foundation

CC: Fresno City Council

Mission

The Education and Leadership Foundation empowers our communities through educational opportunities, leadership development, and civic engagement with respect and integrity.

Vision

To serve the disadvantaged through holistic education and leadership development with innovative opportunities locally and globally.

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Mayor Lee Brand
2600 Fresno St.
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Immigrant Affairs Committee

The Education and Leadership Foundation writes in strong support for the City of Fresno in its effort to establish the first ever Immigrant Affairs Committee in the Central Valley. Immigrant Affairs Committees have been established in multiple cities across the country, providing a great benefit to their communities. The purpose of the Committee would be to provide much needed advisement/information to the City of Fresno.

As you may know, it can be difficult for newly arrived individuals to learn their way around a community, to navigate the political process, voting process, the educational system and/or enter the business arena. We know that our immigrant community has much to offer our fair city and that it is in our best interest to ensure that their potential is realized. Each month approximately 800 legal permanent residents become naturalized here in Fresno's Valdez Hall, yet there are more than 250,000 legal permanent residents in the Central Valley. This means that only about 8,000 become naturalized each year.

Fresno, along with the rest of the Central Valley, continuously grows in its immigrant population. In the Fresno Metro Area, there are over 8,300 immigrant entrepreneurs residing in our community and immigrants contribute over \$1 billion in tax revenue. A report from the Migration Policy Institute states that because many immigrants are not finding jobs that meet their skills/educational attainment, they are often left underemployed/unemployed leaving many millions of dollars forgone in tax revenue since we do not have adequate resources to conduct the outreach necessary to ensure they take advantage of the resources available to them.

That is why the Education and Leadership Foundation asks that the City of Fresno establish the Immigrant Affairs Committee. Immigrants contribute daily to the fabric of our communities, and it is important that we facilitate and support the integration process as much as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 559-269-2642 or via e-mail at raulmoreno@education-leadership.org.

Sincerely,

Raul Z. Moreno
C.E.O.
Education and Leadership Foundation

CC: Fresno City Council



January 18, 2019

Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council
Fresno City Hall
Fresno, California, 93721

Dear Mayor Brand and City Councilmembers:

On behalf of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), I am writing to support a resolution calling for the establishment of an Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee and designating the City of Fresno as a Welcoming City.

KIND was founded by the Microsoft Corporation and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie, and is the leading national organization that works to ensure that no refugee or immigrant child faces immigration court alone. We do this in partnership with over 585 law firms, corporate legal departments, law schools, and bar associations. KIND promotes protection of children in countries of origin and transit countries and works to address the root causes of child migration from Central America. KIND also advocates changing law, policy, and practices to improve the protection of unaccompanied children in the United States, by educating policymakers, the media, and the broader public about the violence that is driving children out of Central America and their need for protection.

KIND started its Central Valley program in February 2016 and opened its physical Fresno office in April 2016. We are the only nonprofit organization in Fresno that focuses on meeting the specific needs of unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children, a particularly vulnerable immigrant population. KIND's Fresno office has grown to a staff of five, and we currently serve hundreds of children in the greater Fresno region.

The City of Fresno is fortunate to have a rich history that includes the presence of immigrants from all over the world. Their contributions, and those of their descendants, have enhanced the economy, society, culture and democratic life in Fresno, the Central Valley and the State of California. Nonetheless, important gaps exist in the City government's responses to the phenomenon of international migration, limiting the potential benefits to the city, region and state. Unlike many other cities and counties in our nation, for example, Fresno has no immigration affairs advisory committee to identify opportunities and help the city address challenges.

KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE (KIND)

Headquarters – 1201 L Street NW, Floor 2, Washington, DC 20005, Phone: 202-824-8680; Fax: 202-824-0702
www.supportkind.org

The Immigration Affairs Advisory Committee can meet the challenging demands our immigrant community face in the City of Fresno, and it has the potential to bring about numerous benefits to Fresno residents in general. Specifically, through the formation of the Committee, KIND sees significant benefits to its clients and their families. The Committee, among other goals, would be in a position to advance immigrant integration; promote important tools, such as English language learning and vocational training; fight fraudulent immigration services that prey on families and children; and foster a culture of tolerance and a welcoming environment for newly arrived immigrants, like unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children, in Fresno.

KIND is eager to work with the City of Fresno to help design, develop and implement such an initiative.

We look forward to your support for the resolution and its unanimous adoption.

Sincerely,



Katie Annand, Esq.
Managing Attorney – San Francisco/Fresno
Kids in Need of Defense

KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE (KIND)

Headquarters – 1201 L Street NW, Floor 2, Washington, DC 20005, Phone: 202-824-8680; Fax: 202-824-0702
www.supportkind.org



LAW OFFICE OF JESSICA SMITH BOBADILLA
A Professional Law Corporation
Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Esq.*

January 17, 2019

Fresno City Council
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Re: Letter of Support for an
Immigrant Affairs Committee

Dear Honorable Council Members:

My name is Jessica Smith Bobadilla and I am a private immigration attorney in Fresno. I am a Fresno native and have practiced exclusively immigration law throughout my seventeen year legal career. I have practiced immigration law in Fresno since 2004. I am writing to voice my support for and assistance with the creation of an Immigrant Affairs Committee.

In private practice I have represented clients at all levels in the immigration process. I have argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals successfully several times representing immigrants from the Central Valley in their immigration appeals. Apart from my private practice, I was the Director of the New American Legal Clinic at San Joaquin College of Law from 2012 to 2016. I have been an expert in three civil immigration cases and offered legal opinions in several criminal law matters. I have been cited in the Los Angeles Times, The Fresno Bee, The Sacramento Bee, Mother Jones magazine, Univision and other sources throughout the United States and internationally on topics related to immigration and human rights matters. In 2016, I departed the law school since I was the beneficiary of a grant in connection with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto and Raza Centro Legal in Oakland to deliver no cost services to adults with children in removal proceedings who resided in the Central San Joaquin Valley.

Send all Mail:

Los Angeles

633 W. 5th Street, Suite # 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Ph. 213-223-2240
Fax: 213-223-2304

Fresno

2300 Tulare Street, Suite # 235
Fresno, CA 93721
Ph. 559-264-2500
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San Francisco

315 Montgomery Street, Suite # 800
San Francisco, CA 94104
Ph. 415-398-4444
Fax: 415-520-4448

*A member of the New York State Bar

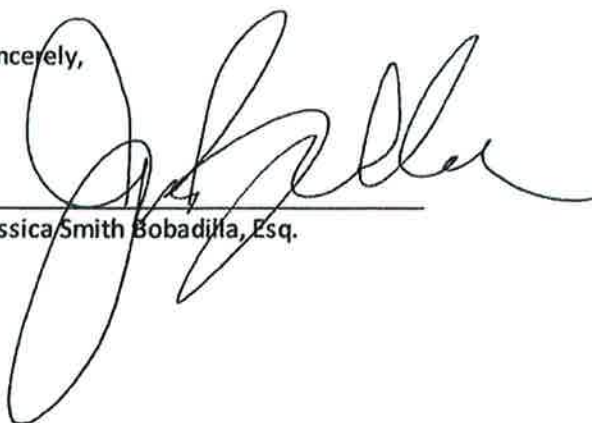
This was a two-year grant and at the conclusion of the second year I was offered the role of Senior Fellow with Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto with the idea that I would also continue my private practice in the Central San Joaquin Valley. Many state and national organizations are concerned about the gaps in representation for low-income immigrants and refugees in the Central San Joaquin Valley. It is perceived that the area lacks an infrastructure to assist and facilitate immigrant growth into the area. I believe an Immigrant Affairs committee can start to fill these gaps.

The lack of representation options and the scarcity of non-profit resources are striking in Fresno and the surrounding areas compared to other areas throughout the state of California. This translates into the poorest people with meritorious cases being unable to secure representation in many cases. It also results in them falling prey to scams from unauthorized practitioners often passing themselves off as equivalent to an attorney. In a complex immigration court or appellate case this can be equivalent to someone with paramedic training attempting to perform a surgery.

Given the demographics of the City of Fresno the development of an Immigrant Affairs Committee is essential not optional at this stage. The density and diversity of immigrant populations is noteworthy. There is a great need for further immigrant integration as well as an emphasis on protection of immigrants from fraud and other coercive behavior both in the workplace and in their daily lives.

I voice my unequivocal support for an Immigrant Affairs Committee. If I can offer technical assistance or other comparative experiences since I have worked in a variety of areas please let me know. I represent clients in immigration court weekly in San Francisco appearing on behalf of Central Valley residents. I have attended meetings in the past year with court personnel and the Chief Immigration Judge. Thank you for taking up this matter of great importance to my clients and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Smith Bobadilla', written over a horizontal line.

Jessica Smith Bobadilla, Esq.



Jesus Martinez, Esq.
2904 N. Blackstone Ave. Suite 202
Fresno, CA 93703
559-840-0005
jesus@siren-bayarea.org

January 17, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for Designating Fresno as a Welcoming City & Creating an Immigrant Affairs Committee

Dear Fresno City Council,

My name is Jesus Martinez and I am an attorney with the non-profit organization, Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN), located here in Fresno near Manchester Center. Our organization provides know your rights workshops and immigration legal services to immigrant and refugee communities. Many of the individuals we assist are fleeing persecution in their home country. They are grateful to live in Fresno because unlike other cities, it is tranquil and safe.

Many of the immigrants distrust the government in their home countries because of the corruption that exists. I support the proposed resolution because it would let immigrants and refugees know that they are welcome into Fresno, and that this government will protect them.

By creating the Immigrant Affairs Committee, it will allow council members to speak with members of the community that are directly working with the immigrant community. This is beneficial because their voice will be represented in policies that directly affect them.

Respectfully,

Jesus Martinez, Esq.