

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 1999

The Immigration Rights Commission meeting was held Thursday October 1, 1998, at Chinese for Affirmative Action in the Community Room at 17 Walter U. Lum Place.

Members Present	Renato Ecarma Rene Saucedo Marie Mallare	Nati Ramirez Philip Nguyen Martin Schenker	Isabel Huie Richard Ow	Penelope Chronis Thou Ny
------------------------	--	--	---------------------------	-----------------------------

Members Absent Lee Sprague, Fidel Jiminez, Samuel Assefa, Nam Thai and Anita Friedman

Others Present John Young, Immigration Special Assistant to the Executive Director of DHS

Roll Call Rene Saucedo called the meeting to order at 4:45pm, noting that the Commission was present with the exceptions of Lee Sprague, Fidel Jiminez, Nam Thai, Anita Friedman and Samuel Assefa

Agenda On motion by Rene Saucedo, seconded and carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

Minutes The minutes of the February 4, 1999, meeting were adopted as circulated.

Immigrant Issues Several youth from Community Educational Services and Asian Community Teens Organizing for Community Empowerment came out and spoke to the Commission regarding issues affecting immigrant families and immigrant rights. The reports from the Youth included an urgent need for more bilingual materials and staffing throughout all City departments and Private Industries. The children cited many crucial incidents where lack of bilingual staff and translated materials were hindrances in dealing with hospital emergency staff and interpreting notices from City departments and banks. One youth spoke of a situation where his mother, who does not speak English had fallen and injured herself at home. 911 was called, but when the paramedics arrived, the mother and son who speak little English could not tell the paramedics what happened. Also, upon arrival to the hospital the mother and son could not tell the doctor on duty how the injury came about. The lack of translated materials also effect relationships between parents and children due to the fact that parents often rely on their children to interpret notices and mailings. When a child cannot interpret these notices it causes conflict within the home.

**IMMIGRATION RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 1999**

Public

Comment

A women visiting the Commission meeting asked the students what they would recommend to alleviate the problems they are facing. The women also noted that the Chinese newspapers and radio stations should help with translating materials. The student stated that translated materials throughout City and Private agencies, is detrimental in correcting these problems immigrants are facing.

2000

Census

Mr. Ted Wang from Chinese for Affirmative Action spoke to the Commission regarding assistance in getting an accurate count of the immigrant population in San Francisco. Mr. Wang stressed that it is important that immigrants are counted and represented to the full extent in the decennial census and annual American Community Survey.

Budget

Proposal

John Young informed the Commission that the proposed budget had been presented to the Board of Supervisors and we are waiting final approval.

Public

Comment

There was no public comment.

Bilingual

Legislation

John Young presented a progress report on the continuing efforts to develop appropriate legislation with community groups.

Public

Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

There being no further business Marie Mallare adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm