



Office of Immigrant Affairs



Newsletter | November 2022

Mayor Todd Gloria created the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in July 2022 to ensure that the City of San Diego is addressing the needs of our diverse immigrant and refugee communities and to develop resources and inclusive policies for immigrants in San Diego. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for your support!

The Month In Review

San Diego State University's (SDSU) 2022 RE: Border Binational Conference

On November 14th, OIA Executive Director, Rita Fernandez, and the City of Tijuana's Director of Migrant Services, Enrique Lucero Vazquez, spoke on a panel during the SDSU RE: Border Binational Conference about cross border collaboration on migration in the San Diego-Tijuana region, the importance of municipal immigrant affairs offices, immigration policy advocacy, and the current state of migration at the U.S.-Mexico Border. We would like to thank SDSU for covering this important issue during their conference. **#2Cities1Community**





OIA Legal Services and Policy Fellow attends the *Here and Now* conference

Riley Minkoff, OIA's Legal Services and Policy Fellow, attended *Here and Now*, a conference created and hosted by Catalyst and Casa Familiar, two organizations that are passionate about building an equitable society and making social change.

At this event they held discussions and panels on topics such as the Path Towards Illumination, Inspiration, and Accountability and Sustaining Social Change: A Thriving Ecosystem of Land Communities, Economies and Organizations. Overall, the conference focused on how community members, organizations, and funders can work together to provide better services, advocacy, and community organizing in order to actually benefit the people they are trying to serve.





Meeting with Consul General of Mexico in San Diego

OIA's Executive Director met with Ambassador Carlos González Gutiérrez, Mexico's Consul General in San Diego and on November 17 to discuss collaboration between OIA and San Diego's Mexican Consulate to assist the Mexican immigrant community. As a binational region, it is important for OIA to collaborate with our partners in Mexico to assist and provide resources to the Mexican community in San Diego, which is the largest immigrant community in the City of San Diego.



OIA Communications and Outreach Fellow speaks on an alumni panel at the University of San Diego

Randy Reyes (USD Class of 2022), the OIA Communications and Outreach Fellow, was invited by USD's Department of Political Science and International Relations to speak on an alumni panel for undergraduate students on November 16. Randy discussed his experiences as a Communications Intern and now a Communications and Outreach Fellow at OIA, OIA's mission, and how students can get involved with the City of San Diego.

This panel also included Kim Heinle, the Executive Director for Bayside Community Center, Keegan Jones, a Developer Platform Investigator for Meta, and Jorge Lison, the Lead Software Engineer at SCTR Services LLC.



University of San Diego



OIA Executive Director returns to her Alma Mater, USD, as a guest speaker

OIA Executive Director, Rita Fernandez, returned to her Alma Mater, USD, as a guest speaker in a U.S. Immigration Policy class. The class is taught by USD's Political Science and International Relations Department Chair, Dr. David Shirk. Dr. Shirk has conducted extensive research and has worked for many years on topics relating to U.S.-Mexico relations, politics in Mexico, and U.S. immigration policy. He invited Rita to speak to his students about the establishment of OIA, OIA's mission, and the importance of immigration policy advocacy at the local level.





Bipartisan group of U.S. mayors, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, urges Congressional Leaders to act on DACA.

A bipartisan group of mayors, through the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), sent a letter to Congressional leaders on November 17, 2022, calling on them to provide permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. USCM's leaders on immigration issues, Mayors John Giles of Mesa, Jorge Elorza of Providence, Todd Gloria of San Diego, Regina Romero of Tucson, and Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, all signed the letter. In the letter, the mayors wrote: "Our bipartisan organization has adopted this policy because it is the right thing to do – for Dreamers, for our communities and for our country." USCM has supported granting permanent legal status to DACA recipients on a bipartisan

basis for more than 10 years and first called for establishment of the DACA program in 2012.

[Read the letter here!](#)



U.S. Mayors ✓
@usmayors

Today, [@MayorGiles](#), [@Jorge_Elorza](#), [@MayorToddGloria](#), [@TucsonRomero](#), [@MayorOfLA](#) and [@tcochran_mayors](#) sent a bipartisan letter to Congressional leaders urging them to provide permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.



usmayors.org

Bipartisan Group of American Mayors Urges Congressional Leaders to Act on D...
Visit the post for more.

Over 70 U.S. mayors urge Congress to enact permanent protections for Dreamers

On November 29, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria joined a bipartisan group of local leaders from the Cities for Action network in a letter to Congressional leaders urging them enact permanent protections for Dreamers during the lame duck session of Congress. In the letter they stated, “we, leaders representing local governments around the country, are disappointed by the lack of Congressional action to pass fair and humane immigration reform... Together, we stand in solidarity with Dreamers and vow to continue supporting

all immigrants living in our cities and counties. The time to act is now.” Overall, this letter underscores how ending DACA would have a devastating impact on millions of people including DACA recipients, DACA-eligible individuals, their families, friends and communities across the United States.

Read the letter
here!



Cities for Action 

@citiesforaction



#BREAKING: We just released a letter from 70+ Mayors from across the country, asking [@SpeakerPelosi](#) [@SenSchumer](#) [@LeaderMcConnell](#) & [@GOPLeader](#) to provide permanent protections for Dreamers during the lame duck. [#TimeisNow](#)



citiesforaction.us

Over 70 Cities for Action Mayors & County Executives Urge Congress to Enact Permanent Protection...

Resources

We are hosting our first **Know Your Rights Clinic!**

OIA is partnering with Casa Cornelia Law Center to host a “Know Your Rights Clinic” for immigrants living in San Diego on December 1st. Casa Cornelia attorneys will provide information about their services and offer limited free legal consultations after the presentation.

For more information about the time and the location of the event, please email us at ImmigrantAffairs@san Diego.gov or call us at **619-236-6456** and let us know the languages you speak (for purposes of the presentation).

PRESENTATION FOR Immigrant Victims of Crime



CASA CORNELIA
LAW CENTER

Exploring Immigration Protections for Victims

Presenter: Evelyn Lopez

Managing Attorney for Victims of Crime Program

Date: Thursday, December 1st

Topics: Know Your Rights, VAWA, U Visa, T Visa, Asylum, TPS, & SIJ

For more details email us at:

ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov

OR call 619-236-6456!

 Office of
Immigrant Affairs

The logo for the Office of Immigrant Affairs features the letters 'SD' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the 'SD' is a stylized graphic element consisting of two overlapping curved shapes, one yellow and one blue, resembling a partial circle or a drop.

PRESENTACIÓN PARA inmigrantes víctimas del delito



CASA CORNELIA
LAW CENTER

Protecciones disponibles para inmigrantes vulnerables

Presentadora: Evelyn Lopez

Abogada Gerente del Programa de Víctimas del Crimen

Fecha: Jueves 1 de Diciembre

Temas: Conce Sus Derechos, VAWA, Visa U, Visa T, Asylo Politico, TPS, y Visa Juvenile

Para obtener más información, envíenos un correo electrónico a ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov o llame al 619-236-6456!



Policy Updates & Other News

Federal

District Court Judge Blocks the U.S. from Expelling Migrants Under the Title 42

Policy: On November 14th, Federal Judge Emmet Sullivan from the 8th circuit district court barred federal immigration officials from using Title 42 to expel migrants arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border by permanently enjoining them from applying the policy. Judge Sullivan stated in his ruling that the policy was “arbitrary and capricious” and created in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act. He also stated that by issuing the public health order that Title 42 was predicated on, the CDC ignored the

harm that could be caused by the policy. This ruling comes after a federal judge from the 5th circuit blocked the Biden Administration from ending Title 42 in May.

It remains to be seen whether or not DHS and the Department of Justice will ask an appeals court to suspend the November 14th ruling. However, on November 16th, the court granted a stay of its order vacating the Title 42 public health order. Title 42 will remain in place during the period of the stay, which will last five weeks, allowing the government to prepare for a transition. The order lifting Title 42 will now go into effect on December 21, 2022.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) preserved and implemented the [final rule for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#): DACA was fortified under DHS's final rule implementation, meaning that DACA is now based on a formal regulation. United States Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) will continue to accept and process applications for deferred action, work authorization, and advance parole for current DACA recipients. However, due to the ongoing litigation, USCIS will continue to accept, but not process, new DACA requests.

USCIS [Announces Online Filing for Affirmative Asylum Applications](#): On November 9th, USCIS announced that the [Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#) is now available to file online for *some* affirmative asylum applicants. USCIS will continue to accept the paper version of this form by mail, however, this expansion will minimize reliance on paper records. Lastly, in order to file a form online, an individual must first create a USCIS online account for security and tracking purposes.

DHS [announces countries eligible for H-2A and H-2B visa programs](#): DHS, in consultation with the Department of State, announced an updated list of countries whose nationals are eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B visa programs. The only addition to the list was the Kingdom of Eswatini. These visas allow U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals from 88 countries to the U.S. to work in agricultural (H-2A) and nonagricultural (H-2B) jobs. This announcement will not affect the status of H-2 beneficiaries who currently are in the U.S. with such visas.

DHS Continues Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Certain Beneficiaries: On November 10th, DHS posted a [Federal Register Notice](#) announcing the [continuation of TPS and related documents for certain beneficiaries](#) from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Sudan, Honduras, and Nepal, subject to court orders in two ongoing cases. Those beneficiaries will retain their TPS related documentation through June 30th, 2024, provided they continue to meet all individual requirements. The automatic extension of TPS-related documentation includes specified Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) through June 30th, 2024, as well. Individuals who were newly granted TPS under the 2021 designation of Haiti or the 2022 designation of Sudan are not covered by this notice. Instead, their TPS grants remain valid in accordance with their individual notices of approval from USCIS. In order to receive TPS under the 2021 Haiti or 2022 Sudan designations, eligible individuals must apply before the close of the registration periods on February 3rd, 2023, and October 19th, 2023, respectively.

The U.S. resumed migration talks with Cuba: On November 15th, American and

Cuban officials met in Havana, Cuba to discuss the implementation of the [U.S.-Cuba Migration Accords](#). This was the second meeting between the two countries in 2022 discussing the topic of migration. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, [Emily Mendrala](#), led the American delegation and the Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba, [Carlos Fernandez de Cossio](#), led the Cuban delegation. It was reported that these negotiations have been successful, as both states have made some concessions.

USCIS Extends and Expands Fee Exemptions and Expedited Processing for Afghan Nationals: USCIS announced it is extending and expanding previous filing fee exemptions and expedited application processing for [certain Afghan nationals](#) through September 30, 2023. These actions are meant to help Afghan nationals resettle and reunite with family in the U.S. by enabling USCIS to process their requests for work authorization, long-term status, status for immediate relatives, and associated services more quickly. The [webpage](#) includes more information about the types of forms and eligibility details that will qualify for fee exemptions and expedited processing.

Join our team!

Interested in immigration policy and supporting immigrant communities in San Diego? Join us!

We are currently recruiting interns at the Office of Immigrant Affairs for policy, communications, or outreach projects. To learn more and apply, click below



[Learn more and apply here](#)

For any other inquiries please contact us via email at ImmigrantAffairs@sandiego.gov.

Thank you,
Office of Immigrant Affairs

[Visit our Website](#)

Office of Immigrant Affairs - City of San Diego | 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

[Unsubscribe rsfernandez@saniego.gov](mailto:rsfernandez@saniego.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by immigrantaffairs@saniego.gov in collaboration
with



Try email marketing for free today!