



Office of Immigrant Affairs



Newsletter | September 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

Welcoming Week 2022

OIA kicked off Welcoming Week 2022, September 9th-18th, by illuminating Balboa Park with the colors of the Welcoming Week 2022 campaign.

Welcoming Week is an international campaign organized by Welcoming America to showcase the importance of welcoming newcomers into our communities. This year Welcoming America recorded 450 events in 32 states and 7 countries, with 6 million people participating. OIA would like to thank everyone who participated in Welcoming Week activities and who continue to welcome immigrants into their communities.





Welcome Note Drive

Our Welcome Note Drive was a success! Community members joined us on September 10 at the City Heights Library to decorate welcome notes for newly arrived immigrants and refugees in San Diego. We want to thank our partner organizations who partnered with our office for this event including Catholic Charities of San Diego, International Rescue Committee of San Diego, Alliance for African Assistance, and Jewish Family Service join us.

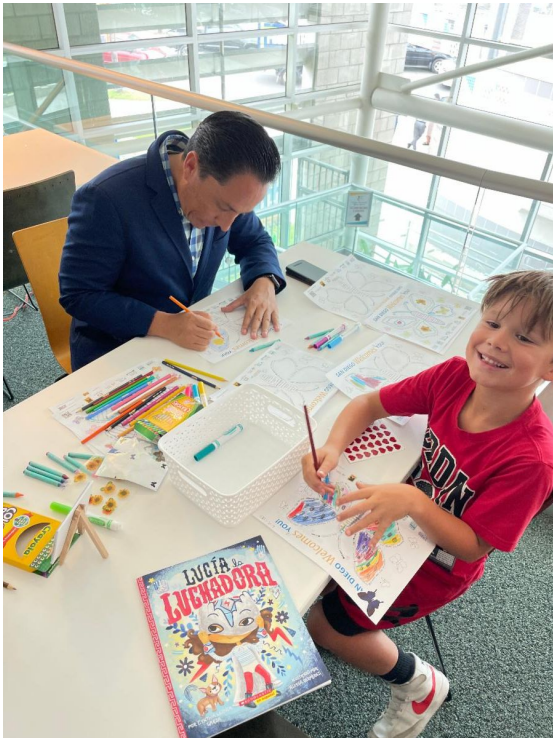
We are also grateful to Mayor Todd Gloria and Council President Sean Elo-Rivera for joining us and sharing their views on the importance of supporting the diverse immigrant community here in San Diego.

Another big thank you to San Diego Public Libraries Director, Misty Jones, and her staff for co-hosting this event and for supporting immigrant communities through their Welcome Stations located at all 36 public libraries across San Diego.

Lastly, we are grateful to the many community members who joined us in decorating notes that have been distributed to our partner agencies.

Here are some press clips from the event:

- Spanish Press Clip on [Telemundo](#)
- English Press Clip on [NBC 7](#)



Climate Migration Council Announcement

Rising temperatures and climate disasters are forcing a record number of people across the world to migrate. According to the World Bank, over 200 million people will be displaced by 2050 as a result of climate change. As America's largest border city, San Diego is at the front lines of welcoming immigrants, including many impacted by the effects of climate change.

On Monday, September 19th, the Climate Migration Council was created to address this issue and we are proud to share that San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria is one of the group's founding members. Mayor Gloria will be joining this new coalition of global leaders that includes José Andrés, Manish Bapna, Mark Hetfield, Roberta

Jacobson, Claudia López Hernández, David Miliband, Cecilia Muñoz, Janet Napolitano, Leon E. Panetta, Laurene Powell Jobs, and Vittoria Zanuso. The Council will focus on building a commitment to put people at the center of climate action and accelerate global solutions to climate-driven migration.

The group recognizes that the climate crisis acts as a powerful driver of migration patterns, and that there remains a global need for legal pathways, clear institutional leadership, and new integrated strategies at all levels of government to anticipate and safely accommodate the increasing numbers of people affected by this crisis.



Cities for Action Letter to Biden Administration on Refugee Admissions

The [Cities for Action Coalition](#) sent a letter to President Biden to reaffirm US commitment to the refugee admission goal for fiscal year (FY) 2023: 33 mayors across the US, including San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, sent a letter to President Biden urging him to reaffirm the United States' commitment to resettle refugees by maintaining the FY 22 refugee admission goal of 125,000 for FY 23. This includes making use of all the necessary humanitarian programs to assist individuals in need of protection from disasters, conflicts, oppression, and persecution. The coalition noted that world is currently facing its greatest refugee crisis, with over 100 million people displaced globally. On September 8th, the US State Department issued its report to Congress on proposed refugee admissions for FY 23 and kept the goal at 125,000 people.

[Read the full letter
here](#)



CITIES for ACTION

September 16, 2022

VIA EMAIL

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

As leaders representing local governments around the country, we urge you to reaffirm the United States (U.S.)' longstanding commitment to refugees by at the very least:

- Maintaining the refugee admission goal for FY 2023;
- Taking all necessary steps and providing needed resources to meet this goal; and
- Strengthening other humanitarian programs to assist individuals in need of protection from disasters, conflicts, oppression, and emergencies.

As cities and counties from across the country, we are at the forefront of welcoming refugees and integrating immigrants into our communities. We know firsthand that we all benefit from the tenacity, courage, diversity, and skills that refugees bring. Welcoming them increases creativity, innovation, and economic growth in our communities.

We applaud your decision to raise the refugee cap to 125,000 for FY 2022. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)¹, currently over 100 million people have been displaced worldwide, more than any time in recorded history, with two million of them needing urgent access to resettlement this year. Given these dire circumstances, we ask that the refugee admission goal for FY 2023 be maintained at least at this current level.

¹ "More than 100 Million Now Forcibly Displaced: UNHCR Report" | UN News." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120542>.

Welcome new OIA team members!

This month we welcomed two new additions to the OIA team.

Randy Reyes

Communications and Outreach Fellow

Randy serves as Communications and Outreach Fellow at the Office of Immigrant Affairs. He graduated in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a concentration in international security and a minor in Communication Studies from the University of San Diego. He is also part of the dual BA/MA program in International Relations at the University of San Diego, and



is on track to graduate with his Master of Arts in International Relations by Spring 2023.

Riley Minkoff

Legal Services and Policy Fellow

Riley Minkoff is the Legal Services and Policy Fellow for the Office of Immigrant Affairs. She is currently a Law Student and Masters of Peace and Justice Student at University of San Diego in the joint JD/MAPJ program and expects to graduate with both degrees in the spring of 2024. She received her B.A. in Political Science, Spanish, and Women's and Gender Studies from Muhlenberg College in 2020, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.



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](#)

Resources

Alliance San Diego US Citizen Webinar

Alliance San Diego is hosting a webinar in English and Spanish on how to become a US citizen. You can [register on their website](#). In addition to presentations, they also provide [free immigration consultations](#) and representation for citizenship, TPS, DACA and more.



**Participate in Our
Democracy: Become a
U.S. Citizen**

alliance
SAN DIEGO

Register: bit.ly/citizenshipevent

Thursday, Oct. 6
5:30-6:30pm PT on Zoom

Join us for a presentation about obtaining U.S. Citizenship. We will discuss eligibility, the process, and benefits of becoming a U.S. Citizen.



**Participa en Nuestra
Democracia: Conviértete en
Ciudadano Estadounidense**

alliance
SAN DIEGO


Register: bit.ly/eventodeciudadania

Jueves, 6 de octubre
6:30-7:30pm PT por Zoom

Únete para una presentación sobre cómo obtener ciudadanía estadounidense. Hablaremos sobre elegibilidad, el proceso y de los beneficios del ciudadano estadounidense.

New International Rescue Committee (IRC) Anti-Corruption Case Management

Program: The IRC in San Diego launched a new Case Management program for adult survivors of Human Trafficking (sex and/or labor) regardless of immigration status. The IRC formally extends their services to any potential leads/referrals who might benefit from their programs. The goal of the IRC is to help survivors of human-trafficking become self-sufficient and continue to be an integral part of their communities.



Safety & Wellness Unit

Advocacy & Case Management for
Survivors of Human Trafficking

Services Provided:

- Employment & Economic Empowerment
- Housing & Shelter referrals, and Material Assistance
- Mental Health Service Provider Referrals
- Legal Service Referrals

- An array of IRC Survivor Advocacy Services

Email: SDwellness@rescue.org

Referral Form Link:

<https://rescue.app.box.com/s/aoofaafjgd38m6u81a4ehikx0hgw9pjl>

GOOD NEWS!

IRC has started a new program for Asylees and Vulnerable Noncitizens



They can benefit from

- Financial assistance
- Public benefits enrollment
- Enrollment in services (Education)
- Cultural orientation
- Legal assistance
- 90 days of case management
- Employment

Contact us

619-641-7510

Stephania.ortegaagon@rescue.org



Enhanced Services for Asylees
& Vulnerable Noncitizens



Policy Updates and Other News

Federal

USCIS Extends Permanent Resident Card Validity Extension to 24 Months for Renewals: On September 28th, USCIS announced that as of September 26th, Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) will be automatically extended from 12 months to 24 months for lawful permanent residents who properly file I-90 forms.

This allows for the I-90 form receipt to serve as evidence of approved continued status. For more information, visit [this link](#).

U.S. ends one immigration pathway for Afghan evacuees, shifting to long-term

strategy: This change in policy will shift the title of the government's mission from Operation Allies Welcome to Operation Enduring Welcome. This move from the US is a sign of a new phase in evacuation efforts as the nation marks one year since the military withdrawal from Afghanistan. The change will also ensure that those who arrive from Afghanistan come with a more stable immigration status; however, those who are given humanitarian parole at ports of entry will now be given only two years to secure another immigration pathway.

Industries across the US are putting pressure on the Senate to pass the Farm

Workforce Modernization Act: This bill would create a path to citizenship for foreign workers, grant legal status to undocumented laborers, and allow seasonal workers to legally remain in the country for longer. This legislation would also assist with the US labor shortage, especially within the agricultural sector. If the US does not address this issue by providing work visas and passing the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the labor shortage could double over the next decade.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released final version of the Public Charge

Rule: DHS released a final version of the public charge rule of inadmissibility. The new version restores the historical understanding of 'public charge' that had been in place for decades, until the Trump administration changed the reading of the rule. Specifically, the prior administration wanted to consider supplemental public health benefits, such as Medicaid and nutritional assistance, as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination. Upon releasing the new version of the rule, DHS Secretary Mayorkas stated that "This action ensures fair and humane treatment of legal immigrants and their US citizen family members." DHS once again will not consider receipt of certain non-cash benefits for which noncitizens may be eligible, such as:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or other nutrition programs
- Children's Health Insurance Program
- Medicaid
- Housing benefits
- Any benefits related to immunizations or testing for communicable diseases

The final rule will be effective on December 23, 2022, and was published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2022.

Updates on Bridging the Gap for New Americans Act : This bill was passed in the

House on September 19, 2022, after being introduced in the Senate in 2021. The bill would require the Department of Labor to submit to Congress a study on the factors affecting employment opportunities for individuals with professional credentials obtained in a non-U.S. country, specifically individuals who are lawfully present noncitizens or naturalized U.S. citizens. The study described in the bill will not record data or take into account undocumented individuals or those working who are unlawfully present/not naturalized in the U.S. Additionally, the bill dictates that Congress shall work with relevant non profit organizations and State agencies to use

the existing data and resources of such entities to conduct the study. President Biden has not yet signed the bill into law.

State

California Governor Newsom passes SB 836 presented by California Senator Scott

Wiener: California Senator Scott Wiener introduced this legislation extending the safeguards in SB 785, which protected a person's immigration status in a public court record unless the presiding judge determined that immigration status was relevant to the proceeding. The previous legislation had a sunset date of January 2022, but in SB 836 no new sunset date was added, making this protection permanent.

California IDs for All: On September 23rd, Governor Newsom announced the signing of the California IDs for All bill, which will support immigrants, expand opportunity, and advance equity in the state.

Specifically, undocumented Californians will be eligible to obtain a state ID, which is critical for many public benefits at the state and local levels. For example, street vendors will be able to more easily obtain local health permits, immigrant students will have improved access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities, and low income immigrants will be eligible for legal assistance in civil matters. This legislation presented by the California State Legislature and signed by Governor Newsom demonstrates that California is a welcoming state for all.



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

Thank you,
Office of Immigrant Affairs



Visit our
Website



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