

City of San Diego

Weekly Immigrant Affairs Update

A new U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) memo [aims to increase oversight of "critical incident teams" \(CITs\)](#), issuing new standards while consolidating internal investigative power in the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR).

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced [guidance recognizing that a spousal relationship may exist for the purpose of obtaining derivative refugee or asylee status, in certain circumstances, if there is evidence of an informal marriage](#). How to request reconsideration can be found [here](#).

USCIS is publishing guidance addressing Violence Against Women Act Self-Petitions. See the [Policy Alert here](#).

CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & UPDATES

- The block of Third Avenue between Market St. and Island Ave. has been officially named "[Tom Hom Avenue](#)" in honor of [the first person of color to serve on the City Council in 1963](#), Tom Hom.
- [Mayor Gloria joined](#) Baja California Governor Marina del Pilar, U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar, and other officials to discuss the new Otay Mesa border crossing, [which may open ahead of schedule](#).
- [Mayor Gloria met with](#) U.S. Customs & Border Protection's new Director of Field Operations for San Diego, Sidney Aki.

NEW DATA, REPORTS, & PODCASTS

- Refugees International surveyed asylees about their ability to successfully integrate in the U.S. You can find survey results and recommendations in [Assessing Barriers to Integration: A Survey of Asylees in the United States](#).
- Voice of San Diego's [A Parent's Guide to San Diego Schools](#) provides an overview of every public school's performance, explains education jargon, online learning, and independent study options as well as charter & private schools.
- Seattle-King County Public Health has [in-language video instructions](#) for Flowflex and BinaxNow COVID test kits on their website. The Vermont Language Justice Project also has instructional videos [here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The [Cultural Pathways program](#) strengthens the capacity of small, new, and emerging arts organizations rooted in communities of color, recent immigrant & refugee communities, and tribal/indigenous groups, and will anchor their cultural/creative work into the cultural landscape of CA. Deadline is March 9.
- The Center for Inclusion and Belonging at the American Immigration Council is issuing a [Call for Bridging Communities Projects](#) to crowdsource the best ideas & activities that bring people together to work toward the common good while building relationships that help bridge group differences. Deadline is March 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- The San Diego Community College District/College of Continuing Education offers spring Citizenship and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Classes are free, and the [registration system](#) is designed for English Language Learners to make the process accessible. See the attached flyer.
- The [San Diego Workforce Partnership](#) is partnering with SDSU to facilitate a Care Coordination certification course that will prepare participants to become community care coordinators in local health-related organizations, community organizations, and more. Interested participants can apply for the [Community Health Worker Pathways program](#) for tuition sponsorship.
- The [County Registrar of Voters](#) is implementing a comprehensive Voter Education and Outreach Plan to meet its goal of informing voters of the transition to the [vote center model](#). Starting in March, the Registrar's office will host voter education workshops, which will also be offered in various languages. If you are interested in scheduling a workshop for your organization or community, contact Rosa Rascon at Rosa.Rascon@sdcounty.ca.gov.

If someone at your organization would like to receive this update, you have ideas for improvement, or you no longer wish to receive these updates, please email Farhat Popal, Immigrant Affairs Manager, at FPopal@sandiego.gov.