

# **MAYOR'S IMMIGRATION ISSUES TASK FORCE**

## **Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2008 Meeting**

The final meeting of the **Mayor's Immigration Issues Task Force** was held on Monday, June 23, 2008, in the Council Chambers, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona.

### **Attendees:**

- Minutemen (Mel Oliverson)
- Sacred Heart (Gladdy Miller, replacing Sister Ann)
- Veterans for Secure Boarders (Bob Park)
- Prescott College AZLan Center (Amy Wendhausen, substitution for Ligia Umana)
- Deputy City Manager (Laurie Hadley)
- Police Department (Lt. Andrew Reinhardt)
- City Attorney (Gary Kidd)
- Yavapai County Contractors Association, YCCA (Sandy Griffis)
- Hispanic Community Representative (Brenda Bobinsky)
- Facilitator/mediator (Gil Shaw)
- Committee chairman (Mayor Jack Wilson)

### **Meeting recap**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by task force chair Mayor Jack D. Wilson. Task force members substituting for others introduced themselves: Gladdy Miller (replacing Sister Ann for Sacred Heart) and Amy Wendhausen (substitution for Ligia Umana).

Facilitator Gil Shaw then had task force members summarize their proposals. A summary of these proposals, who presented them and the task force's action on each, is presented in the table, on the following page.

### **Actions Taken**

Three (3) recommendations were accepted by the committee to be given to the mayor who will in turn present them to the Prescott City Council.

The first recommendation came from Mayor Jack D. Wilson. It was later modified to include an addition proposed by Gladdy Miller. This recommendation asks the Prescott City Council to send a letter to the area's state legislative representatives (Mason, Tobin and O'Halleran) and Arizona's U.S. Congressional delegation, urging "comprehensive immigration reform." See Attachment 1 - Approved Task Force Recommendation 1.

The second recommendation would be the formation of a three-member city immigration advisory committee. Gladdy Miller suggested the committee as a way of dealing with immigration-related issues as they arise in the community, as an alternative to taking each issue to the City Council. One member should be from the city and Lt. Reinhardt was suggested.

The third recommendation combined suggestions from Brenda Bobinsky, Hispanic Community representative and from Gary Kidd, Prescott City Attorney. The recommendation is to schedule a public meeting that would feature two speakers. Brenda Bobinsky suggested bringing in Judith Gans, Director, Immigration Policy Program at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona to present her report: *Immigrants in Arizona: Fiscal and Economic Impacts*. City Attorney Gary Kidd suggested having Yuma City Attorney Steven Moore speak about his city's experiences with

immigration. It was felt the two presentations would provide a balance on the issues.

Mayor Wilson stated he expects to take the three recommendations to the Prescott City Council for consideration within the next three to four weeks.

**Recommendation Presented**

<b>Proposal Description</b>	<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Task Force Action</b>
Recommend that Prescott City Council send letter to Arizona legislators and Arizona Congressional delegation asking for action on comprehensive immigration reform.	Mayor Wilson	Consensus to proceed, add issue about visa processing as a fifth item: 5. The Federal Government is urged to develop reformed Visa and citizenship application processes.
Volunteer effort to determine work needs that are not currently being filled by local labor pool. Encourage reform, including availability of H2B visas to meet local labor needs not met by citizens.	Brenda Bobinsky #1	Tabled. No action required by the City of Prescott.
Immediately revise budget to dedicate two police officers to immigration and strict enforcement of existing ordinances at Lincoln and Gove.	Mel Oliverson #1	At least two committee members had heartburn with this recommendation
Create a permanent oversight of advisory committee for City Council on immigration issue.	Gladdy Miller #1	Consensus to accept. This committee would need to be appointed by the city council. It was recommended that it be a three-member committee, with one member from the City of Prescott. Mayor Wilson suggested that the member should be Lt. Reinhardt. However, other suggestions were made including a City Attorney representative and or City manager's staff representative.
Requesting immigration status of any one arrested or detained by City of Prescott Police.	Bob Parks, Item #1	Lt. Reinhardt stated that the Prescott Police Department is currently moving forward with this issue.
Query business owners on Immigration issues, labor needs and effects of immigration on local economy.	Amy Wendhausen #1	Tabled as no city action required.

Invite Judith Gans, Manager of the Immigrations Policy Program at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona to present her report: <i>Immigrants in Arizona: Fiscal and Economic Impacts.</i>	Brenda Bobinsky, Item #2	Consensus to accept recommendation with a modification to also invite Yuma City Attorney Steven Moore speak about his city's experiences with immigration.
Immediate appointment of a Mayor's Immigration "Ombudsman."	Mel Oliverson, remainder of proposals	No action taken, but see Gladdy Miller recommendation #1, above.
Ask Federal Government for a Comprehensive Reform Bill on Immigration in the form of an official letter from the Prescott City Council.	Gladdy Miller #2	Was added to Mayor Wilson's recommended letter, above.
Utilize a "traffic stop form" for all stops. This is the form that DPS was required to use after a lawsuit regarding racial profiling in their traffic stops.	Amy Wendhausen #2	No action. Lt. Reinhardt expressed concern about the issue and indicated he would take any complaints very seriously. He encouraged anyone to come forward with a complaint. During his tenure on the force he recalls none against the City of Prescott Police.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Mayor Wilson thanked all the participants for sticking with the task force through several months of effort. All participants expressed their thanks to the Mayor for taking the issue on and forming the task force and that they look forward to continue to work with everyone on the issue of immigration in Prescott.

Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:35pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mayor Jack D. Wilson

JDW/jdw

# **Attachment 1 - Approved Task Force Recommendation 1**

## ***Letter to Arizona Congressional Delegation***

The Immigration Task Force proposes that the Prescott City Council send a letter to our Arizona legislative representatives (Mason, Tobin and O'Halleran) plus the Arizona Congressional Delegation (two senator, eight representatives), urging them to work on immigration reform at the Federal level. The task force recommends that letter address the following issues:

1. Create a guest-worker program. Most illegal immigrants come to work. This would give them a chance to do that without breaking the law. By allowing guest workers, U.S. authorities could focus on drug dealers and security hazards instead of job-seekers.
2. Secure the border, prevent illegal residents and workers.
3. Pressure the federal government. It's essential to better reimburse local officials for the costs of illegal immigrants and recognize the federal obligation to do so.
4. Inform the public. Too many still don't have an accurate picture of the full economic impact of immigrant labor.
5. The Federal Government is urged to develop reformed Visa and citizenship application processes.