



Office of New Americans Introductory Presentation
Department of Neighborhoods – July 13, 2021

Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs Committee
Council Member Sallie Alcorn, Chair
Council Member Amy Peck, Vice Chair

Mission

The Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities reaches out to Houston's diverse community of immigrants, ex-patriates and refugees to facilitate their successful civic, economic and cultural integration as members of our community.



History

- 1998 Special Assistant appointed by Mayor Lee P. Brown
- 2011 Office of International Communities created by Mayor Annise D. Parker as part of the Department of Neighborhoods
- 2015 Renamed Office of New Americans under Mayor Sylvester Turner



Profile of Houston's Immigrant Population

Houston's Immigrant Population

- 25% Houston's population is foreign born
- 1.6M total population in Houston region of 6.8M
- 145 foreign languages spoken in Houston
- 25% of population is Limited English Proficient

Top Countries of Origin

Mexico.	40.2%
El Salvador.	7.6%
Vietnam.	5.9%
India.	5.5%
Honduras.	3.6%

Financial Impact Immigrants

- Metro area households earned \$50.9B
- \$9.2B went to federal taxes
- Immigrants contributed \$124.7B of Houston metro's \$478.6B GDP

Future Impact on Houston

- Houston's economic growth will depend on immigrants
- Construction, Service, Health, and IT sectors will rely more on immigrants to meet labor demands
- Cutting foreign migration by 30 percent would result in a \$51 billion loss in regional economic output by 2036



Roles & Responsibilities

- Liaises with immigrant and refugee community to provide services in collaboration with non-profit organizations.
- Hosts forums on citizenship and immigration rights and naturalization ceremonies.
- Incubates and develops new immigrant-friendly city policies and initiatives.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Promotes cultural diversity through education and events
- Oversees the City's iSpeak Houston language access program
- Collaborates on policy issues with local, state, national and international governments

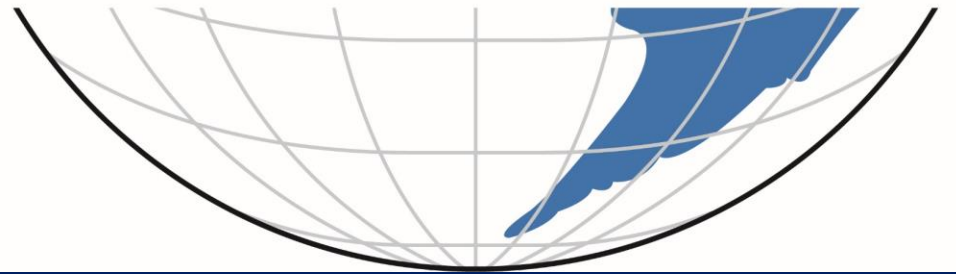
Roles & Responsibilities

- Serves in a supportive role on the Mayors Migration Council and C40 Leadership Group on climate change
- Assists the Office of Emergency Management during disaster events to provide assistance and recovery services to immigrant communities.

The City of Houston Mayor's

ADVISORY COUNCIL

of New Americans & Immigrant Communities



Mayor's Advisory Council Mission



The Mayor's Advisory Council of New Americans advises the Mayor's Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities to promote the well-being and connectedness of Houston's international community of immigrants, expatriates, and refugees by supporting their civic and cultural integration.

Comprised of community stakeholders representing the public and private sector, the Advisory Council provides the Mayor, City Council and the City of Houston with recommendations on how to foster this growing community's engagement in civic affairs and improve their quality of life.



Accomplishments

Notable Accomplishments

- Presidential recognition for making Houston a “Welcoming City” for immigrants
- Initiated Texas Welcoming Cities Network
- Created City’s language access iSpeak Houston program and assisted other US cities in developing similar language access programs
- Incubated the City’s human trafficking initiatives

Notable Accomplishments

- Mayor's Advisory Council of New Americans
- Hurricane Harvey recovery events for immigrant communities.
- Naturalization ceremonies at City Hall
- Citizenship Month and World Refugee Day
- WhatsApp Covid-19 video messaging and Univision virtual townhall meetings

Notable Accomplishments

- Developed a citywide “Welcoming Houston” campaign to promote our diversity.

GOALS



Future Goals

- Increase staff capacity
- Improve the City's ability to communicate with immigrants during a natural disaster
- Train all City employees on how to use the iSpeak Houston language access program
- Increase office participation in C40 climate migration initiatives
- Improve awareness of 211/311/911 services for immigrants

Office Locations & Contact Information

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GRACIAS DZIĘKI CẢM ƠN
СПАСИБО GRAZIE
TAK **THANK YOU** MERCI
DÊKUJI AITÄH ありがとうございました
謝謝 TACK DANKE
HVALA TACK TEŞEKKÜRLER