



# City of East Palo Alto MINUTES

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – 6:30 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017  
EPA Government Center  
2415 University Ave – First Floor – Council Chamber**

**MAYOR:  
LARRY J. MOODY**

**VICE MAYOR:  
RUBEN ABRICA**

**COUNCILMEMBERS:  
LISA GAUTHIER, CARLOS ROMERO, DONNA RUTHERFORD**

Mayor Moody called the Study Session to order at 6:36 p.m.

All City Councilmembers were present, except Councilmember Rutherford.

**PRESENT:** Moody, Abrica, Gauthier, Romero

**ABSENT:** Rutherford

The City Council approved the Agenda in a unanimous vote.

**Action:** Upon motion by Councilmember Gauthier and seconded by Councilmember Romero, the City Council **voted 4-0, with Councilmember Rutherford absent.**

**AYES:** Gauthier, Romero, Moody, Abrica

**ABSENT:** Rutherford

The City Manager announced that translation services were available.

Thereafter, City Attorney Alvarado, Chief Pardini, Captain Paul R. Kunkel of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Grisel Ruiz of Immigration Legal Resources Center, and Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto provided the following presentations for Agenda Items A1 through A3:

## A. CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION: IMMIGRATION

1. **City Policies and Procedures to Protect Immigrant Communities; and Brief Overview of Recent Federal Action**  
*(Rafael E. Alvarado Jr., City Attorney, and Al Pardini, Police Chief)*
2. **San Mateo County's Sheriff's Arrest/ Jailing Policies and Procedures and ICE Involvement**  
*(San Mateo County Sheriff's Office)*
3. **Overview of Criminal Justice System and Enforcement of Immigration Laws; and Local Immigration Assistance**  
*(Immigration Legal Resource Center / Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto)*

Councilmember Rutherford arrived sometime during the City Attorney's presentation.

13 members of the public commented and questioned the presenters on matters such as how to handle ICE when detained, seeking an information hotline, and how to learn more about their and their loved ones' rights as immigrants. Some members of the public expressed their thanks to the City Council for establishing this meeting.

After the public comments, the City Council, staff, and presenters conversed on the City's roles and responsibilities dealing with ICE, sanctuary cities and the President's Executive Order, the San Mateo County Sheriff's steps and procedures working with ICE regarding due process, how to help the community become legalized citizens, and the effects of the children's placement should their parents or caregivers are deported.

The City Council thanked the presenters and Immigration Ad hoc Committee.

### 4. Discussion of potential City Council Action

City Attorney Alvarado provided options that the City Council may want to consider, including consolidating existing immigration policies into one resolution, establishing a fund to create legal assistance to immigrants, or the creation of another resolution that provides City staff further direction on refraining from federal civil immigration enforcement

The Immigration Ad hoc Committee added these were just recommendations for consideration, but not to take action at that evening's meeting. Council discussed the options, particularly the support of possibly combining the three prior resolutions into one resolution, the other proposed resolution and what those specific elements would mean for the City, and allocating money in the budget to assist immigrants.

The Mayor and Vice Mayor both mentioned that the community should be equipped with information such as creating or knowing a hotline number to assist immigrants, the City establishing mock training on how to engage with ICE, and understanding basic rights.

Two more comments were made from the public.

## **5. Adjournment**

The City Council Study Session was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared, and Respectfully Submitted By:



Terrie Gillen, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk

*Minutes were approved at the regular City Council meeting on March 7, 2017.*