

MINUTES OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 5, 2008

4:00 P.M.

NORTH CAROLINA MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in Special Session in the Meeting Chamber Conference Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center located at 600 East Fourth Street at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Jennifer Roberts and Commissioners
H. Parks Helms, Norman A. Mitchell, Sr.
Dan Ramirez and Valerie C. Woodard

Absent: Commissioners Karen Bentley, J. Daniel Bishop,
Dumont Clarke and Bill James

Board Members attended a meeting of the Board's Community Building Committee, chaired by Commissioner Woodard.

Commissioner Ramirez was absent when the meeting was called to order and until noted in the minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Woodard, after which the matters below were addressed.

(1) Approval of summary from previous meeting held April 15, 2007

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Helms and unanimously carried to approve the summary from the previous meeting.

(2) Staff response to Mayor's Immigration Study Commission Report

- **Information was received from Deputy County Attorney Sandra Bisanar regarding additional language for public contracts to help ensure that all contracts and projects of the County that utilize taxpayer funds do not support the employment of illegal immigrants.**

Deputy County Attorney Sandra Bisanar addressed E-Verify or Social Security Number verification. It was noted that contractors can only be required to comply with state and federal regulations, thus, the County can't require anything above what's required by state and federal law. E-Verify is not required by state and federal law. Attorney Bisanar reviewed some proposed language.

A copy of Attorney Bisanar's handout is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Roberts said she was not comfortable with the proposed language requiring that contractors agree and warrant that it has established internal safeguards and reporting policies to ensure continued compliance with immigration laws and to encourage its employees to promptly report any suspected violations of immigration law

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Commissioner Helms said he feels the County should just continue to ask that contractors comply with applicable state and federal law.

Attorney Bisanar noted that the County already requires such compliance with state and federal law.

General discussion took place regarding what the County can and cannot do, in light of current immigration laws. It was noted that immigration reform on the federal level is still needed.

Commissioner Ramirez entered the meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the County continues its current practice, which is requiring that contractors comply with all applicable state and federal laws. It was felt that going beyond this point would put the County at risk or create legal issues for the County.

Attorney Bisanar was directed to prepare information to be shared with the full Board at its next Regular meeting regarding this issue but that it is the recommendation of the Committee that the language currently used by the County is sufficient.

- **Information was received from Health Director Wynn Mabry regarding public health services available to low-income and/or uninsured immigrants.**

Commissioner Ramirez asked for clarification regarding Medicaid and the uninsured, which was addressed. He also inquired about the make-up of this population, which was also addressed.

Commissioner Woodard asked about persons with delinquent accounts and their ability to receive medical services, which was addressed.

Commissioner Ramirez commented on services provided by Mi Casa Su Casa.

Dr. Mabry addressed Physician Outreach.

A copy of Dr. Mabry's handout is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

- **Information was received from Human Resources Director Chris Peek regarding language pay incentives for bilingual employees.**

A copy of Dir. Peek's handout is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Roberts said she likes what staff presented.

Commissioner Helms asked for clarification on categories A & B noted in the information provided, which was done.

Commissioner Woodard asked about existing employees and training, which was addressed.

This concluded the discussion. The above is not inclusive of every comment but is a summary. More detail is available in the Meeting Summary of the Committee and prepared by the Committee staff person. A copy of which is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was declared adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Janice S. Paige, Clerk

Jennifer Roberts, Chairman