

REBECCA FOREST

9311 N. FM 620, Suite #1

Austin, Texas 78726

April 15, 2015

Councilman Don Zimmerman
Austin City Council - District 6
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Councilman Zimmerman:

As a native of Austin, I greatly appreciate the appointment to the City of Austin Immigrant Affairs Commission and your confidence in my ability to serve in a responsible matter on that commission. Unfortunately, I must decline the appointment as it is clear the City Council will not honor it.

As you have stated, most District 6 constituents (and many constituents in other districts) understand that there is a difference between “legal immigration” and “illegal immigration.” They also expect our elected representatives at every level of government to uphold the rule-of-law and the Constitution.

Time and time again I have stated that I do not care where people come from, I just want them to obey our laws, come legally, speak our language and assimilate - become “Americans.” I have also suggested publicly that we find ways to fast track those who have chosen to respect our immigration laws and enter our nation legally.

Now more than ever, the immigration issue has become a matter of national security and it is truly disturbing to see how elected (and appointed) leaders in the City of Austin and Travis County are choosing to put the safety of legal immigrants, legal residents and American citizens at great risk by adopting policies that provide a “safety zone” (thus sanctuary) for violent/criminal illegal aliens flowing daily across our southern border.

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There are many District 6 constituents who feel that the Austin City Council (and the Immigrant Affairs Commission) put ALL Austin families in grave danger by implementing/recommending "sanctuary city" policies. It is unacceptable that the leadership in Austin is **knowingly aiding and abetting criminal activity** through policies that act as a magnet to draw dangerous criminals into our communities - especially into our local immigrant communities.

I sincerely hope that each and every member of the Austin City Council, the Immigrant Affairs Commission and the Human Rights Commission will familiarize themselves with the following reports: [2013 Texas Public Safety Threat Overview](#), the [2014 Texas Gang Threat Assessment](#), and the [2014 Assessing the Threat of Human Trafficking in Texas](#). These three DPS reports clearly define the very real threat of the major Cartels and other transnational gangs operating freely throughout Texas. Every city/county/state leader needs to take these threat assessments very seriously.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Forest

Rebecca Forest
District 6 Constituent