

Tobias E-Mail to Commission members advising of creation of Facebook page

Greetings Commission Members,

Thanks for welcoming Dana and I to the Utah Commission on Immigration and Migration.

Yesterday, some of you expressed concerns about getting too much e-mail and not having staff or funds for someone to review a twitter account.

We took the liberty of creating a Facebook Page: Utah Commission on Immigration and Migration. [On this site, we posted on the "wall" for citizens to post their ideas and comments](#) and told them that members of the commission would review this Facebook page.

You're welcome to join the group and get an idea of what citizens' concerns are about immigration and migration. We asked people not to debate on this Facebook page...it is [a place](#) for ideas and suggestions and other feedback.

Here's the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/192925807487645/203987653048127/#!/groups/214348308665654/>

Best regards,

Janalee Tobias and Dana Christensen

Mero E-Mail to Commission Members

From: Paul Mero [mailto:PMero@sutherlandinstitute.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:58 AM

To: Janalee Tobias; 'Amanda Jex'; 'Curtis Rowley'; 'Ed Collins'; 'DeLaina Tonks'; 'Jason Mathis'; 'Dana Christensen'; 'Barbara Melendez'; 'Tim Wheelwright'; 'Becky Lockhart'; 'Ben McAdams'; 'David Litvack'; 'Evan Vickers'; 'Kevin VanTassell'; 'Rebecca Houck'; 'Ross Romero'; 'Ryan Wilcox'; 'Stuart Reid'; 'Michael Waddoups'; 'Richard Gomez'; 'Francine Giani'; 'Greg Bell'; 'Julie Fisher'; 'Kristen Cox'; 'Leonard Blackham'; 'Mark Shurtleff'; 'Spencer Eccles'

Cc: 'Dana'

Subject: Re: Facebook Page for Utah Commission on Immigration and Migration

Thank you, ladies, for your cheerful enthusiasm. Speaking only for myself, a Facebook page is fine for sharing pictures of my grand babies and other associational sentiments but is about as far away from helpful to the purposes of the Commission as we can get. I offer this insight as the one who did express in our last meeting that not only have I had enough random email from "citizen experts" about immigrants living in Utah, I will oppose any attempts to open pathways for this sort of input into the Commission. Again, I speak only for myself in this email...knowing full well, and no doubt, that my words will end up on some nativist's hate-filled web site.

Just to be clear, I believe both Senate President Michael Waddoups and Lt. Governor Greg Bell stated the purposes of this Commission very well. All of us can read the bill that created the Commission for even further clarification. At this juncture, perhaps because I'm the most impatient and grumpiest member of the Commission as it pertains to wasting time, I'll add my two cents to explain my motivation for agreeing to serve on this Commission.

I'm interested in information that makes public policy better. In this case, there is nothing that was described in the seemingly endless motion (and I apologize for interrupting its verbatim reading on the language we had right in front of us) that tells me that I'll be more informed by "discovering" more about those specifics today or tomorrow that I wasn't aware of yesterday. In my opinion, this Commission doesn't exist to rehash HB 116. It doesn't exist to undermine the good work the state

Legislature has already completed on many levels to find reasonable solutions to improving the circumstances of citizens and undocumented immigrants already living in Utah or who might arrive in Utah at any given point in the future.

That said, I commend you ladies for creating a valve thorough Facebook to allow concerned citizens, from all over the world, to vent their opinions and share the minutia of their anecdotal experiences as to why they don't have a job or why their neighbor was violated or why some little children shouldn't be taught in government schools like their own kids living off of the generosity of taxpayers as well.

Perhaps this is not a good day for me to respond thusly. Then again, given all I've already been through on this issue, perhaps these comments are as simple as not wanting to subject myself to even more kooky conspiracy theories and the rantings of "patriots" who, as God as their witness, know more about this issue because they've seen a Mexican than every serious mind in Utah who already has worked this issue with a fine tooth comb.

Is there more information to be had? Of course, and I welcome it. But this note is simply my way of communicating that the time of Commission members is precious and I'll pushback on any efforts to use the brief meetings we have to entertain any agenda, any "concerns," that even sound, in the slightest, like they were born in the crazed minds of a nativist community of people who already have more than sufficiently expressed their views across the Internet, through email and, unfortunately in many cases, in person to me.

In short, ladies, thank you for your enthusiastic efforts but, no, I don't care what Facebook has to say.

Best wishes,

PTM

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Tobias e-mail in response to Mero's e-mail to Commission Members

Good Morning Paul,

What an unpleasant surprise to get your e-mail this morning where you said about citizens expressing their opinions on Facebook:

"like they were born in the crazed minds of a nativist community of people who already have more than sufficiently expressed their views across the Internet, through email and, unfortunately in many cases, in person to me."

I don't have time to sufficiently address this letter. I'm leaving to Idaho to take my mom to surgery. I'll be back next week. If you want, I'd be happy to bake you some homemade bread and talk about this. Afterall, if I recall correctly, that's what women should be doing. You

know, staying home and caring for a quiver full of children. That's basically what I've been doing all these years...and fighting for constitutional freedoms.

I'd like to make an important point: A nativist is someone who is against legal immigration. These people who you are talking about—it's not about legal immigration. It's about ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. It's an insult to me that you would speak that way about me or any other citizen who has different opinions on immigration. My ancestors migrated here LEGALLY. I have worked with the Guadalupe schools in getting donations for the students and their families. Anyone who knows me knows that I am not against LEGAL immigration.

I apologize for this Facebook page. We received notice that we should have received approval from this commission for the Facebook site. So, don't worry, Paul, you won't have to deal with crazed nativist citizens. Dana is in the process right now of changing the Facebook site. We only meant to save members of this commission from getting overloaded with e-mails. Additionally, the statute states that this commission is for the purpose of studying all areas of immigration:

- (3)(a) In performing its powers and duties, the commission may invite testimony from the governor, legislators, state agencies, and members of the public.
- (b) The commission may consult with experts or other knowledgeable individuals in the public or private sector on any matter related to the commission's powers and duties under this section.
- (c) The commission may hold one or more public hearings that it considers advisable and in locations within the state that it chooses to afford interested persons an opportunity to appear and present views with respect to any subject relating to the commission's powers and duties under this section.
- (4)(a) The commission shall report periodically to the Legislature and governor on its activities and recommendations.
- (b) The commission shall submit an initial report to the Legislature and governor no later than six months from the date of the first meeting of the commission.
- (c) The commission shall submit a first annual report to the Legislature and governor six months from the day on which the initial report is submitted, or as soon as practicable after that date.
- (d) After the first annual report, the commission shall annually submit reports to the Legislature and the governor.
- (e) The commission shall provide any report submitted under this Subsection (4) to the public upon request.

Best regards for a very Happy Easter weekend!

Janalee Tobias