

**AILA CHICAGO CHAPTER**  
**USCIS DISTRICT DIRECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE**  
**CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE**  
**January 25, 2017 MEETING**

**SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES**

**1. Update from Tom Cioppa**

- a. Executive Actions: Tom Cioppa indicated the office has little information about the Executive Actions. He indicates that their leadership will endeavor to carry out their function as they have been.
- b. Hiring freeze: A government hiring freeze has been announced but guidance on this is still forthcoming.
- c. Deputy District Director: The office has received authorization for a Deputy District Director position. Brian Christian is scheduled to join the office in this position in early March. He is from the New York City office.
- d. Citizenship Branch growth: The Citizenship branch is currently up to 6 six supervisors. They plan to split the citizenship branch into two branches with two Branch Chiefs. It is unclear at this time when this will be implemented due to the hiring freeze.
- e. Saturday Interviews for N-400s: Saturday interviews are planned to take place in March, July and August. In addition, for the month of March, N-400 interviews will be scheduled on Fridays.
- f. Infopass: Members are reminded that walk-in Infopass appointments should be for emergencies only. The office requests members' cooperation when seeking to bring in inquiries via Infopass and requests they be sure and schedule an appointment.

**2. Follow up to question 1**

To request the expedited Interview/Oath ceremony, members should submit a written request, rather than an email, with a G-28.

### **3. Follow up to question 2**

When a person has entered into a tax repayment plan, officers have discretion, taking into account the individual facts of the case, to determine whether good moral character exists.

If a person's income is below the amount required for filing federal tax returns, the officer will make a determination regarding the need for a letter from the government to document this.

As to whether tax transcripts, rather than copies of returns, are mandatory, it is a case-by-case determination at the discretion of the officer. Some new officers, who are subject to 100% supervisory review of their decisions, may automatically request transcripts to ensure the case can be approved.

### **4. Follow up to question 6**

Members can make a request to the office if no approval notice is issued.

### **5. Follow up to question 7**

Under the current Policy Manual, lack of NSEERs registration is still to be considered as a matter of discretion.

### **6. Follow up to question 8**

This is a case-by-case determination. However, an applicant's continued probation during part of the period for good moral character should not result in an automatic finding of lack of good moral character but should rather be considered in the context of whether rehabilitation has been shown.

### **7. Follow up to question 10**

If a Service Center has an FDNS request, it may forward the request to the local office if local investigation is needed.

### **8. Miscellaneous**

New Photos and President's Welcome at Oath Ceremony: The new photos of the President and Vice-President, along with the video of the President's Welcome at naturalization oath ceremonies are expected to arrive in two to three months.

- 9. Next District Director Liaison meeting will take place at the end of February (date TBD) and it is a CLOSED meeting.**