



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Press Release No. **25-2017**

FORUM ON IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND ENFORCEMENT HELD AT THE CONSULATE



(L-R) Mr. Bryan Christian, Deputy District Director of USCIS Chicago District Office, Ms. Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, Community Relations Officer of USCIS Chicago District Office and Ms. Manda Walters, Community Relations Officer, U.S. ICE Chicago Field Office (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres)

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago held a public forum on Thursday featuring official representatives from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the benefit of the Filipino community.

Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge welcomed the new Deputy District Director of USCIS District 14 – Chicago District Office, Mr. Bryan Christian and Ms. Maria del Carmen Rodriguez, Community Relations Officer, who provided updates on the newly redesigned Permanent Resident card (Green Card) and Employment Authorization Document (EAD).

They also highlighted the Intelligent Virtual Assistant or avatar that assists browsers in navigating the USCIS website. Ever-improving with every question visitors pose, it was named “Emma” after the poet Emma Lazarus, author of the poem inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Warning and reminders against immigration fraud were also emphasized.

Likewise invited to speak at the forum was Ms. Manda Walters, Community Relations Officer of the ICE Chicago Field Office. She explained some of the salient points, as far as her agency is concerned, in the Executive Orders on Immigration signed by President Donald Trump on 25 January 2017 calling for improvements in enforcement action and border security. She reiterated that enforcement actions are targeted against criminal elements to assuage apprehensions from law-abiding members of immigrant communities.

The community is further encouraged to visit the Department of Homeland Security website for more details on the Executive Orders and other information to avoid immigration related liabilities. **END**





Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge (seated, right) and guest federal officials from the USCIS and ICE are joined in the photo opportunity by officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General and several leaders and members of the Filipino community who participated in the open forum on immigration held at the Kalayaan Hall on April 20. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres)