

USCIS DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEE RULE PROPOSAL  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20529

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
NEWS CONFERENCE  
PROPOSAL TO ADJUST FEES FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS

10:05 a.m. through 10:49 a.m.

June 09, 2010

20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

OLENDER REPORTING, INC.  
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## USCIS MEMBERS PRESENT:

## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services:

Alejandro Mayorkas, Director  
Tim Rosado, Chief Financial Officer  
Rendell Jones, Associate Director of  
Management Directorate

## Office of Communications:

Buck Humphrey, Chief

## MEDIA PRESENT:

Jordi Zamora, AFP  
Suzanne Gamboa, AP  
Amber McKinney, BNA Daily Labor Report  
Hui Jing, Epoch Times  
Katherine Peters, Government Executive  
Fernando Pizarro, Univision  
Alan Gomez, USA Today  
Miriam Jordan, Wall Street Journal  
Stephen Dinan, Washington Times

## MEDIA PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE:

Maria Sacchetti, Boston Globe  
Matt O'Brien, Contra Costa Times  
Stewart Powell, Houston Chronicle  
Teresa Watanabe, L.A. Times  
Alfonso Chardy, The Miami Herald  
Julia Preston, New York Times

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. HUMPHREY: Okay. We're going to go  
3 ahead and get started. Operator, I'll turn it  
4 back over to you in a second.

5 I'm Buck Humphrey, Chief of the Office of  
6 Communications.

7 I just want to lay out a couple ground  
8 rules before we hear some brief remarks from  
9 Director Mayorkas.

10 We do have several outlets on the phone,  
11 and so what we're going to do this morning is  
12 have a question here in the room and then a  
13 question on the phone. We'll go back and forth  
14 so that we have a good flow.

15 If you could please clearly state your  
16 name and outlet affiliate, I would really  
17 appreciate it.

18 And then if you have any follow-up  
19 questions, just please go in order if you at all  
20 possibly can.

21 I'll turn it over now to Director  
22 Mayorkas, but before that, Operator, do you have

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1 any specific instructions?

2 Okay, then I'll --

3 OPERATOR: -- like to ask a question and  
4 it's Star 1, and record your name and prompted  
5 when the question and answer session does come.

6 MR. HUMPHREY: Thank you, Operator.

7 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: And thank you very  
8 much, everyone, for joining us this morning.

9 The subject that I wanted to address with  
10 all of you is our Agency's soon-to-be published  
11 proposed fee rule, the product of a comprehensive  
12 fee review that began in 2009.

13 This morning U.S. Citizenship and  
14 Immigration Services posted to the Federal  
15 Register its proposed fee rule that would adjust  
16 fees for immigration benefit applications and  
17 petitions. The proposal would increase overall  
18 fees by a weighted average of about 10 percent.

19 I previously shared publicly that our  
20 Agency's fee revenue in Fiscal Years 2008 and  
21 2009 was much lower than projected and that our  
22 fee revenue in Fiscal Year 2010 remains low.

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1 tradition of welcoming new citizens. USCIS has  
2 proposed that the naturalization fee not be  
3 increased.

4 We believe this action to retain the  
5 naturalization fee at the current level will  
6 reinforce these principles and is consistent with  
7 our other efforts to promote citizenship and  
8 immigrant integration.

9 We are encouraging members of the public  
10 to submit formal comments on the proposed rule.  
11 It is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The  
12 comment period runs for 45 days, beginning on the  
13 date of formal publication of the rule, which may  
14 be as early as this Friday. The public's  
15 comments will inform and help shape the final  
16 rule.

17 We, at USCIS, understand the effect of a  
18 fee increase on many of the communities we serve,  
19 especially in these economically challenging  
20 times. We have worked hard to minimize the size  
21 of the fee increase, and we will continue to work  
22 hard -- even harder to deliver the level of

1 service that our customers expect and deserve.

2 Thank you. And I'm happy to field  
3 questions. And we'll take a question first from  
4 someone present here. Yes?

5 MS. MCKINNEY 1: Can you describe the  
6 budget issues, particularly with the shortfalls  
7 in 2008?

8 FEMALE NO. 2: Can you speak up, please?  
9 I'm sorry.

10 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I can repeat the  
11 question for the benefit of those present as well  
12 as those on the phone.

13 Could I discuss in greater detail the  
14 budget shortfalls in 2008 and 2009 that were  
15 below projected levels?

16 And we have people from our Chief  
17 Financial Officer and our Management Directorate  
18 that can give a specific number, certainly that  
19 is explained in the proposed fee rule that was  
20 posted this morning and will be published in  
21 several days.

22 Tim, did you have - Tim Rosado is our

1 Chief Financial Officer.

2 Did you have specific figures at the  
3 ready?

4 MR. ROSADO: Yes, the Rule 19 shows that  
5 we're about \$200 million -- a little more than  
6 \$200 million short of (inaudible) our projections  
7 of -- asked what the revenue increase is going to  
8 (inaudible). So --

9 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: For the benefit of  
10 the people on the phone, Mr. Rosado explained  
11 that the deficit was approximately \$200 million.

12 MR. DINAN: From what to what?

13 MR. ROSADO: Two hundred million dollars  
14 between revenue and --

15 MR. DINAN: No, no, I'm sorry. What's  
16 the actual -- what is the projected need and  
17 what's the actual --

18 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: We can get back to  
19 you with the precise figures.

20 MR. ROSADO: Okay. So we expect our costs  
21 to be about \$2.3 billion and revenue to be almost  
22 2.1.

1           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: We'll take a question  
2 on the phone.

3           OPERATOR: Okay. It is my understanding  
4 that we will be taking one question from in the  
5 room and then one question from the phone line.

6           As a reminder, if you do have a question,  
7 it is Star 1 on the (inaudible), and record your  
8 name in just one moment.

9           We'll go with Julia Preston. Your line is  
10 open, ma'am.

11          MS. PRESTON: Yes, good morning,  
12 Director. How are you?

13          DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Very fine. Good  
14 morning, Julia.

15          MS. PRESTON: I understand that part of  
16 the revenue decline is a result of the prior  
17 increase in the fees. In other words, the last  
18 fee increase was so steep that it discouraged  
19 people from coming forward in some cases.

20                 And so I'm wondering if - how raising the  
21 fees again is going to solve your problem of a  
22 revenue shortage if this is a -- kind of a

1 vicious cycle that you have going here.

2           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Well, Julia, let me  
3 say that we are not in a position to conclude a  
4 causal link between our -- the fact that revenue  
5 is lower than projected and the fee increase that  
6 resulted from the 2007 fee rule. So we're not in  
7 a position to conclude that there's that causal  
8 link.

9           The fact of the matter is that we have  
10 sought to implement cuts of approximately \$160  
11 million. We are also seeking in the Fiscal Year  
12 2011 budget additional appropriations over those  
13 in Fiscal Year 2010. And, nevertheless, there  
14 remains a shortfall between our revenue stream  
15 and our costs such that this proposed fee rule  
16 was necessary.

17           Question in the room?

18           MR. PIZARRO: Yes, about the  
19 naturalization fee, you know, back in '07 the  
20 last time fees were increased there was a lot of  
21 criticism about the sharp increase in the  
22 naturalization fee from stakeholders and members

1 of Congress and the community.

2           Were those comments taken into account  
3 this time? Did you receive any -- I mean, did  
4 you consult the stakeholders about -- on the  
5 decision of not increasing it this time?

6           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I'm not sure that  
7 everyone on the phone can hear the question, so I  
8 will indulge the patience of everyone around the  
9 table and repeat the questions that are posed  
10 here.

11           The question was that there was a  
12 considerably strong response to the fee increases  
13 in 2007; because of the sharp level of increase  
14 did we take those comments and concerns into  
15 account in fashioning the proposed fee rule that  
16 was posted this morning.

17           And the answer is we most certainly did.  
18 I specifically traveled around the country when I  
19 became the Director in an effort not only to  
20 share my thoughts and vision for this agency but  
21 to understand the concerns and issues of greatest  
22 importance to the communities that we serve.

1           I traveled to Los Angeles, to Chicago, to  
2 Texas, to Louisiana, to Nevada, to New York, to  
3 Minnesota, and assuredly other states; and we did  
4 hear concerns with respect to the fees that we  
5 charge.

6           And one of the greatest concerns that  
7 were articulated in each of the venues that I  
8 visited and by each of the communities with whom  
9 I met was the concern with respect to the fee for  
10 naturalization and the importance of the ability  
11 to naturalize to the communities we serve. And  
12 we took that significantly into account in our  
13 effort to propose a fee rule that did not  
14 increase the cost of naturalization.

15           Can we take a question from the phone?

16           MR. HUMPHREY: And if everybody could  
17 please state the affiliate that they're with and  
18 their name, please?

19           OPERRATOR: And our next question comes  
20 from Stewart Powell from the Houston Chronicle.  
21 Your line is open.

22           MR. POWELL: Good morning. Thank you for

1 doing this.

2 I just wanted to put this in a broader  
3 political context if you could. We're not going  
4 to get comprehensive immigration form this year,  
5 which is sort of a negative signal to the  
6 immigrant community. Now we're raising some fees  
7 that directly affect their ability to integrate  
8 into the broader United States community.

9 I just wonder if you are sending a signal  
10 to the immigrant community that you want to send  
11 in this context.

12 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Let me say you used  
13 the term affecting the ability to integrate.  
14 Actually, our efforts to enhance the  
15 opportunities for integration are only growing.  
16 I already have commented with respect to our  
17 effort to maintain the naturalization fee as  
18 flat.

19 Our Office of Citizenship is leading a  
20 government effort to enhance integration efforts.  
21 We have a very robust grants program directed  
22 towards building community capacity and building

1 bridges so that the integration efforts that we  
2 all hope for are achieved.

3           The proposed fee rule that speaks of the  
4 fee increase to which I have spoken this morning  
5 is necessitated by our financial situation. The  
6 efforts that we have taken to ensure that the fee  
7 increase is as minimal as possible speaks to our  
8 sensitivity to the communities that we serve.  
9 The appropriations that we as an administration  
10 have sought in our budget request reflect the  
11 importance that this agency be equipped to handle  
12 its current caseload and serve the community not  
13 only at the levels that we are currently  
14 achieving but with the hope that those levels  
15 will be enhanced.

16           And so the message that we send is that  
17 the work of this agency is critically important  
18 and that this agency needs to receive funding  
19 sufficient to close this gap between its costs  
20 and its revenue stream to be able to deliver the  
21 services that our communities deserve.

22           Suzanne?

1           MS. GAMBOA: You have some reductions in  
2 the fees in here. Is this correct -- the  
3 adjustment of status from temporary to permanent  
4 residence; does that go down? I thought when I  
5 looked at the website of the Federal Register  
6 this morning it said 1,085. So I'm just trying  
7 to -- and do these increases -- do these totals  
8 include the \$85 (inaudible) or are these just --

9           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Let me, if I can --  
10 Suzanne's question -- Suzanne Gamboa from AP --  
11 her question was that she was looking at a table  
12 of fees and was asking whether one of the  
13 particular fees actually has -- the proposal is  
14 that the fee be reduced; is that true.

15           And let me answer that a bit more broadly  
16 and then specifically. There are really three  
17 categories here. There are -- in the proposed  
18 fee rule.

19           And I should emphasize the fact that it  
20 is a proposed fee rule for this very important  
21 reason: It is indeed proposed. The regulatory  
22 process envisions and accounts for a 45-day

1 public comment period; and it is very important  
2 that individuals with an interest in the fee  
3 structure of this agency utilize that opportunity  
4 to comment on the proposed fee rule because those  
5 comments, as I have indicated in my opening  
6 remarks, will indeed inform and guide our shaping  
7 of the final rule.

8           Suzanne, in response to your question,  
9 there are certain fees that are being increased;  
10 there are certain fees that, indeed, are being  
11 decreased in this proposal; and there are three  
12 new fees that are being proposed. There may be  
13 some instances where a fee remains unchanged.  
14 I'm not sure, but this is predicated upon a cost  
15 modeling system.

16           The fees that are proposed are determined  
17 by the costs that are associated with the  
18 processing of the particular application. We  
19 have made, as I indicated before, a policy  
20 determination to deviate from that cost model in  
21 the context of the naturalization fee because of  
22 the unique importance of that fee.

1           There are two other instances that come  
2 to mind where we have deviated from that model.  
3 One is on application types where the volume is  
4 extremely low and the increased cost could not be  
5 spread amongst the fee-paying customers in a way  
6 where the increase would not be so enormous as to  
7 have a disproportionate impact. And also, I  
8 think with respect to a fee regarding adoptions  
9 we've made a determination to deviate from the  
10 model.

11           Suzanne also asked whether the fee  
12 increases that are delineated in the chart also  
13 include an increase in the fee for capture of  
14 biometrics. They do not because the biometric  
15 fee is across a full spectrum of fees; and so  
16 that fee is dealt with separately.

17           We'll go to the phones.

18           OPERATOR: Our next question comes from  
19 Al Chardy of Miami Herald. Your line is open.

20           MR. CHARDY: Yes, good morning. My  
21 question has three elements. One is when do the  
22 new fees go into effect? What is your annual

1 revenue stream, and what is the shortfall?

2 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: What was - Al, what  
3 was the shortfall; when do the fees go into  
4 effect; and what was the middle question? I'm  
5 sorry.

6 MR. CHARDY: Yes, what is your annual  
7 revenue stream?

8 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I think that Tim  
9 Rosado answered earlier. I'm sorry you didn't  
10 catch that, and he will repeat his articulation  
11 of the shortfall and the revenue stream.

12 With respect to when the fees go into  
13 effect, as I -- I can't underscore often enough  
14 this is a proposed fee rule. Once it is  
15 published there will be a 45-day comment period,  
16 and then we are on a clock to turn around a final  
17 rule, and we do expect to publish a final rule  
18 this fiscal year.

19 Tim, can you step up to the mike perhaps  
20 and answer Al's questions?

21 MR. ROSADO: Sure.

22 Based on -- and you'll see this in the

1 rule -- we expect to collect about -- nearly \$2.1  
2 billion under the current fee levels. And based  
3 on our projection costs, they'll be about 2.3.  
4 So the difference is a little over \$200 million.

5 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: And, Tim, the revenue  
6 of -- the estimated revenue of \$2.1 billion is  
7 for Fiscal Year 2010?

8 MR. ROSADO: Yes, it's an average of both  
9 years. It's about 2.1 both years - 2010 and  
10 2011. It's the --

11 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: The average projected  
12 revenue.

13 Is there a question? Yes?

14 MR. DINAN: Stephen Dinan from the  
15 Washington Times.

16 What conversations have you had with  
17 members of Congress -- the 2007 rule having a lot  
18 of pushback from Congress so they end up allowing  
19 it go forward? What kind of conversations have  
20 you had with them?

21 And I actually don't know, is this a sort  
22 of decision that in the end the President signs

1 off on -- not signs something, but did you run  
2 this by -- did the White House have to approve  
3 this before you published this?

4           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: This is a proposed fee  
5 rule that the administration has put forward, and  
6 we have communicated with members of Congress, as  
7 we have with the general public, with respect to  
8 our financial condition, the appropriations that  
9 we have requested, and the gap that we need to  
10 close, and the cuts that we are making to try to  
11 close that gap, and where we are as a result of  
12 it. And I think we have signaled to members of  
13 Congress as we have signaled to the broader  
14 public the financial situation and the  
15 possibility of a proposed fee rule that we are  
16 posting today.

17           We'll go to the phone.

18           OPERATOR: And again, as a reminder, it  
19 is Star 1 when prompted if you do have a  
20 question.

21           Our next question from the phone is from  
22 Maria Sacchetti from the Boston Globe. Your line

1 is open now.

2 MS. SACCHETTI: Hi, good morning. This  
3 has come up in the last question though. I mean,  
4 what message did you get back from members of  
5 Congress? Was it that they just didn't want to  
6 appropriate money?

7 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Well, no, we -- we  
8 are grateful for the appropriations that we have  
9 received from Congress. Those have addressed  
10 certain surcharges that fee-paying customers have  
11 paid, and we have worked collaboratively with  
12 members of Congress in addressing the financial  
13 condition of this agency.

14 MS. SACCHETTI: I'm sorry. I just had a  
15 quick follow-up question. Were the fees to apply  
16 for a Green Card and for TPS, Temporary Protected  
17 Status?

18 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Let me -- I would  
19 have to pull the exact -- the list here and will  
20 be able -- what was your name? I'm sorry. We'll  
21 be sure to be in touch with --

22 MS. SACCHETTI: Maria Sacchetti with the

1 Boston Globe.

2 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I'm sorry?

3 MS. SACCHETTI: Maria Sacchetti with the  
4 Boston Globe.

5 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Thank you. We'll  
6 circle back with you, Maria, in response to that.

7 MS. SACCHETTI: Thank you.

8 MR. ZAMORA: Jordi Zamora from France  
9 Press.

10 Could you develop a little bit more on  
11 the application for regional center -- what is it  
12 about the fact that you are charging \$6,200  
13 regional center under the Immigration Investor  
14 Pilot Program?

15 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Yes, on the Immigrant  
16 Investor Program, the EB-5 Program, the  
17 application associated with a regional center is  
18 going to be \$6,230 -- well, it is proposed to be  
19 \$6,230. There has never been an application fee  
20 for that. This is a result of the cost-based  
21 model that we applied.

22 We are now aligning the cost of

1 processing that application with the fee  
2 associated with that application. And it is  
3 strictly a model based.

4 MS. GAMBOA: Can you just describe what  
5 they're paying for there? I mean, what is it  
6 that they're trying to get?

7 MR. ZAMORA: Yes, what is the regional  
8 center?

9 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Oh, the Immigrant  
10 Investor visa program -- I'm sorry. I didn't  
11 quite understand the question.

12 The Immigrant Investor visa program,  
13 commonly known as -- well, known as the EB-5  
14 program, provides generally -- and we can provide  
15 you literature on this which is more specific,  
16 but generally it provides that an individual that  
17 invests a requisite amount of capital -- it is a  
18 million dollars. There's a pilot program that  
19 accounts for 500,000 -- investment of \$500,000.

20 And through the investment of that  
21 capital creates a certain number of jobs, either  
22 directly or indirectly -- I believe it is 10

1 direct jobs under the program and under the pilot  
2 program it is actually indirect jobs are  
3 accounted for as well -- can obtain immigrant  
4 investor visa program.

5 And regional centers are centers that are  
6 designated as right for the development of the  
7 direct and indirect jobs and assists in the  
8 qualification process for the EB-5 visa.

9 We'll turn to the phones.

10 OPERATOR: You have another question from  
11 the phone from Matt O'Brien from the Bay Area  
12 Newsgroup. Sir, your line is open.

13 MR. O'BRIEN: Hi, you just answered one  
14 of my questions; but in the beginning you  
15 mentioned three, I think, new fees, one of them  
16 being for the ED-5 program, but could you just  
17 elaborate a little bit on the other two and also  
18 --

19 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Yes.

20 MR. O'BRIEN: -- I was wondering about  
21 the Green Card fee that Zamora mentioned.

22 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Thank you. Perhaps

1 somebody can track down the proposed fee change  
2 with respect to the Green Card.

3           The other two fees that are new -- and  
4 this is similarly to align the fee with the  
5 processing cost or the designations of civil  
6 surgeons for certain benefits one must pass a  
7 medical examination, and civil surgeons are  
8 designated as qualified to conduct those  
9 examinations.

10           The civil surgeon fee is going to be --  
11 is proposed to be set at \$615. And then there is  
12 -- immigrant visas are processed abroad, of  
13 course, by -- certain ones are processed by  
14 consular offices. That does not mean that we at  
15 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services do not  
16 carry a workload that accompanies the consular  
17 processing. And to cover the cost of the work  
18 load that we bear, a fee is being assessed or is  
19 proposed to be assessed. And I believe that fee  
20 that is proposed is \$165.

21           Do we have the Green Card?

22           MR. JONES: Yes, the adjustment status

1 application which is I-485 goes up about 6  
2 percent from \$930 to \$985.

3 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I'm not sure if  
4 everybody could hear Rendell Jones, the Associate  
5 Director of our Management Directorate.

6 The adjustment of status application, the  
7 I-485, the current fee is \$930. The proposed fee  
8 is \$985, an increase of \$55, approximately 6  
9 percent.

10 MR. PIZARRO: Back in '07 there was --

11 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I'm sorry. Can you -  
12 -

13 MR. PIZARRO: Fernando Pizarro,  
14 Univision.

15 Back in '07 the agency had a huge problem  
16 with a backlog. And one of the reasons why the  
17 fees were increased was, supposedly as well, to  
18 improve customer service.

19 And I know you have made progress in  
20 recent months, and there have been, I believe,  
21 press releases on that; but I wanted to be  
22 refreshed on what the situation with the backlog

1 is at this point.

2           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Sure, if I can, let  
3 me identify, I think, three processing times that  
4 are noteworthy. We had set for ourselves in  
5 connection with the earlier fee rule to which you  
6 eluded a processing time goal of five months for  
7 the naturalization and 400. We currently stand  
8 at four months.

9           With respect to the Permanent Resident  
10 Card, the I-90, we had set for ourselves a goal  
11 of 3.5 months in processing time. We're at 2.5  
12 months.

13           And with respect to the 485, which has  
14 been the subject of inquiries this morning on the  
15 fee, the adjustment of status, we set for  
16 ourselves a goal of 4 months, and we are at that  
17 goal.

18           So I think those are the three most  
19 noteworthy.

20           We'll go to the phone and then Suzanne.

21           OPERATOR: And again, as a reminder,  
22 please press Star 1 and record your name when

1 prompted if you do have a question.

2           We have no questions right now from the  
3 phone line.

4           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I'm going to let  
5 Miriam jump in then.

6           MS. JORDAN: Yes, Miriam Jordan from the  
7 Wall Street Journal. Thank you.

8           Can you just give us a bit of a breakdown  
9 on your workload because we've been hearing that  
10 the actual number of applications files has been  
11 dropped in recent budget years? Can you give us  
12 a sense of the stream of applications for, say,  
13 the last couple years in the different areas, say  
14 for Green Cards, and H-1B, et cetera?

15           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Absolutely. I think  
16 we can provide that detail for you shortly.

17           The drop in revenue -- the fact that the  
18 revenue is lower than projected is actually a  
19 function of the fact that the applications are --  
20 in number are lower. And so we'll provide the  
21 specific numbers to you, Miriam.

22           Suzanne?

1 MS. GAMBOA: I just have -- Suzanne  
2 Gamboa from Associated Press.

3 I just had a quick question. It looked  
4 like in the Federal Register posting this morning  
5 there was some talk about different fees if you  
6 got money from the appropriations for save which  
7 I think you use for checking welfare eligibility  
8 and other eligibility for other programs and  
9 about the other appropriations you're looking  
10 for. Is there another chart that would have some  
11 of these fees lower -- these proposed fees lower  
12 if that money comes through, or is this it  
13 whether or not the money comes through?

14 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: These proposed fees  
15 have been calculated based upon receiving the  
16 appropriations that we have sought.

17 As I mentioned to the communities with  
18 whom I met across the country when first raising  
19 the potential for a fee increase as I felt I was  
20 obligated to do in an effort to achieve the  
21 transparency that is one of our hallmark goals as  
22 an agency, that there are three ways in which we

1 can address a shortfall in revenue.

2 One is to seek appropriations from  
3 Congress; the second is to make budget cuts; and  
4 the third is to propose a fee rule.

5 We have indeed made the budget cuts. As  
6 I have indicated, we have implemented \$160  
7 million in budget cuts. We have sought for the  
8 Fiscal Year 2011 budget a significant increase  
9 over the amount appropriated by Congress for  
10 Fiscal Year 2010. We have a remaining gap.

11 And, quite frankly, because of those two  
12 efforts we are in a position to propose a fee  
13 increase of a weighted average of approximately  
14 10 percent rather than more.

15 Go back to the phone.

16 OPERATOR: From the phone we have Teresa  
17 Watanabe from L.A. Times. Your line is open,  
18 ma'am.

19 MS. WATANABE: Hi there. I just had a  
20 quick question regarding, again, the drop in  
21 revenue. And I know you're going to get back to  
22 us later about how much the citizenship

1 applications have, in fact, dropped, but do  
2 citizenship applications make up the largest  
3 category of immigration benefits, and is the  
4 source of the largest revenue among all of the  
5 benefits?

6 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Teresa, let me - Tim,  
7 Rendell, do you know off the top whether the N-  
8 400 is the largest application in volume?

9 MR. ROSADO: It is one of them, but no,  
10 it's not the - the 765 application, the  
11 employment authorization document is the most --

12 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Largest.

13 Teresa, I'm not sure if you heard Tim  
14 Rosado, our Chief Financial Officer. The 765 is  
15 the largest, the employment authorization; but  
16 the N-400, the naturalization fee is amongst the  
17 largest volume application types.

18 Miriam?

19 MS. JORDAN: Yes, hi, having been on the  
20 other end of the whole Haiti crisis and seeing  
21 all the work that you did so quickly, was - did  
22 Haiti end up setting you back in terms of your

1 budget goals? Was it a real expensive endeavor  
2 for the agency or was it just kind of an act-fast  
3 mobilize?

4 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: For those of you on  
5 the phone who couldn't hear Miriam Jordan's  
6 question from the Wall Street Journal, referring  
7 to the Haiti crisis as a result of the January  
8 12th earthquake and the work that we did in at  
9 least two important respects, one is the  
10 emergency measures that we undertook to assist  
11 orphans in Haiti whose adoption processes were  
12 interrupted by the earthquake and our ability to  
13 extend humanitarian relief to them, and, of  
14 course, with respect to the Temporary Protected  
15 Status or TPS program that we extended to Haitian  
16 nationals here in the United States very swiftly,  
17 how did we manage the costs of that, and did that  
18 set us back.

19 The ability to extend that humanitarian  
20 relief as we did very swiftly was most certainly  
21 an unanticipated cost, and we did not predicate  
22 our ability to extend that humanitarian relief

1 upon the first receipt of monies to fund that  
2 previously unanticipated effort. We extended  
3 that relief in response to the need.

4 That is not to say that it did not have a  
5 budget impact, but we did not address the budget  
6 impact before extending the relief. We responded  
7 to the humanitarian crisis first and foremost.

8 We have sought a supplemental  
9 appropriation to cover the cost of that emergency  
10 relief. And that amount, I think, was \$15  
11 million, and the request is outstanding.

12 Now we'll go back to the phone.

13 OPERATOR: From the phone we have Julia  
14 Preston from New York Times. Your line is open.

15 MS. PRESTON: Yes, I'm still not sure I  
16 understand what you think the cause is of the  
17 decline in applications and, therefore, the  
18 decline in revenues and, you know, I presume that  
19 you have to have some notion of the cause in  
20 order to have some notion of the effect that the  
21 fee increase might have on your revenue stream  
22 and on - which is predicated on the flow of

1 applications.

2           And a second question: Since the  
3 employment authorization is your largest revenue  
4 producer, is there going to be an increase in  
5 that fee?

6           DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Julia, the increase -  
7 - the proposed increase in the employment  
8 authorization application is \$40. The current  
9 fee is \$340. The proposed fee is \$380.

10           And there is -- and this is why, quite  
11 frankly, it speaks to the democratic nature of  
12 this process. The common period which we  
13 encourage the public to employ gives the public  
14 the opportunity to employ, to express its views  
15 with respect to the proposed fee rule and to  
16 comment.

17           If, for example, it has specific concerns  
18 with respect to the proposed fee increase as to  
19 the 765, the employment authorization, this is  
20 the opportunity for the public to voice those  
21 concerns so that we can understand them and  
22 address them as best we are able.

1           We have sought in this proposed fee rule  
2 to address the public concerns as we have thus  
3 far heard them in the context of our engagement  
4 with the communities. And that - frankly, the  
5 result of that is our effort -- our proposal to  
6 keep the naturalization fee flat.

7           The community -- in speaking with the  
8 community in New York, in Los Angeles, and  
9 elsewhere throughout my travels -- the community  
10 has indicated that it surmises that the  
11 application volume is lower than projected  
12 because of the challenging economic times in  
13 which we live. And that is what the community  
14 has articulated to us.

15           And we have been ever mindful of that in  
16 our work leading up to this proposed fee rule,  
17 both in seeking appropriations from congress to  
18 alleviate fee-paying customers of surcharges that  
19 they have paid to date and, quite frankly, in  
20 looking internally in our agency to determine the  
21 extent of the cuts that we can and should make to  
22 be fiscally responsible and to be sensitive to

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1 the fee structure and the community's access to  
2 the services that we provide.

3 Is there a question here?

4 (No response.)

5 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Take one more  
6 question. Is there a question on the phone?

7 OPERATOR: Yes, we do have a question  
8 from Maria Sacchetti, and again, that's from the  
9 Boston Globe. Your line is open.

10 MS. SACCHETTI: Hi, again. Just to  
11 clarify, so are you saying that it cost your  
12 agency 15 million to respond to the Haiti crisis?

13 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Oh, no, that is the  
14 appropriation that we have sought in an effort to  
15 cover what we operationally were going to be  
16 prepared to address. The appropriation that we  
17 would actually obtain, if indeed Congress felt  
18 that it was warranted, would match the costs that  
19 we actually incurred.

20 But one of the things that we did in the  
21 --

22 MS. SACCHETTI: I'm sorry, Mr. Mayorkas,

1 what were the costs you actually incurred for  
2 Haiti?

3 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I don't -- you know,  
4 first of all, those costs are ongoing. The TPS  
5 registration period has not closed. It closes  
6 July 20th to the best of my recollection. I  
7 don't have at my fingertips the costs to date,  
8 but they are materially less than \$15 million.

9 MS. SACCHETTI: Okay, great. And is  
10 there a list available of the fee increases --  
11 something that we could look at?

12 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Oh, yes, I think they  
13 should be in the materials that you all should  
14 have received prior to the commencement of this  
15 meeting. And if not, we can certainly shoot them  
16 to you.

17 MS. SACCHETTI: Great, and --

18 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I should also say  
19 they are, of course, detailed and explained in  
20 the proposed fee rule that was posted this  
21 morning at, I believe, shortly before 9:00 in the  
22 morning.

1 MR. HUMPHREY: There's also a --

2 MS. SACCHETTI: Thank you.

3 MR. HUMPHREY: All the materials are at  
4 USCIS.gov.

5 DIRECTOR MAYORKA: Thanks, Buck.

6 MS. SACCHETTI: Thanks.

7 DIRECTOR MAYORKA: Yes, one more  
8 question.

9 MS. JORDAN: Thank you. Miriam Jordan,  
10 the Wall Street Journal.

11 I was just interested in a little  
12 information about the cost of the E-Verified  
13 program. And, of course, Congress has taken a  
14 particular interest in that program. Can you  
15 comment on E-Verify as a component of your budget  
16 and your --

17 DIRECTOR MAYORKA: One of the -- I think  
18 that one of the programs -- obviously E-Verify is  
19 a program of importance to the public, and,  
20 therefore, is of importance to this agency.

21 One of the programs that would be served  
22 by -- oh, I'm sorry, I was about to misspeak. I

1 was going to speak of a different program, the IT  
2 infrastructure proposal.

3 I don't know. Do we have -- I don't know  
4 the answer to your question, Miriam.

5 What are the interplay between our  
6 proposed fee rule and the E-Verify program? I'm  
7 not aware of --

8 MR. ROSADO: There is no relationship.

9 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: Yes, no relationship  
10 because we have appropriations that are given to  
11 us by Congress -- granted to us by Congress that  
12 fund the E-Verify program specifically. So,  
13 there is no interplay between the proposed fee  
14 rule and the E-Verify.

15 I'm sorry. I got confused.

16 Suzanne?

17 MS. GAMBOA: Suzanne Gamboa, AP.

18 Do you have any place -- any area on fee  
19 applications where more money is actually flowing  
20 -- military and naturalizations, anything about -  
21 - I know you have asked appropriations, but is  
22 there anywhere where revenues are actually up and

1 applications are actually up or anything like  
2 that?

3 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: I turn to our  
4 financial people. Do you know of any application  
5 types where we've actually seen an increase in  
6 the number of applications?

7 MS. GAMBOA: And revenue.

8 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: And corresponding  
9 revenue?

10 MR. ROSADO: I think that -- I don't have  
11 the details with me. We can get back to you.

12 There has been some increase -- modest  
13 increases that have started to uptick - several  
14 application areas. So, it depends upon what  
15 baseline you're talking about -- if you're  
16 talking about last year, for example. So we can  
17 get back to you.

18 MS. GAMBOA: Okay.

19 DIRECTOR MAYORKAS: What should we use  
20 for purposes of your questions is answer we use  
21 last year as the base? Let's pull it back a  
22 year.

1           MS. GAMBOA:  Yes, or maybe we could go  
2 back a few years.

3           DIRECTOR MAYOKAS:  Okay.  Thanks  
4 everybody.

5           [Whereupon, at 10:49 a.m., the press  
6 conference was concluded.]

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