



Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
May 4, 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM
Room CH-370, City Hall

Meeting Minutes

- Commissioners Present:** Devon Alisa Abdallah, Ph.D., Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Yasemin San, Michael Neguse, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Shree Dahal, Cherry Cayabyab, Mohamed Sheik Hassan
- Commissioners Absent:** Andrea Caupain, Ashraf Alazadi, Jesus Y. Rodriguez, Pradeepta Upadhyay, Bincy Jacob, Magdaleno M. Rose-Avila
- Commissioners by Phone:** Paulina Lopez
- SOCR Staff Present:** Julie Nelson, Glenn Harris, Rosalinda Hoskins
- Guests:** Not applicable
- Guest Speakers:** Desiree Tabares, Michael Davis, Brenda Anibarro, Gabriela Quintana
- Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:00 PM
- Approval of Minutes:** April 6, 2011 minutes approved

1. Welcome/Housekeeping/Announcements

2. Action Items

Ordinance/Appointments/Reappointments Updates

- Rosalinda finalized the Ordinance to change the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board's name to Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission, submitted to the Law Dept. this week.
- Rosalinda submitted paperwork to confirm the two new mayoral commissioners Tsegaba Woldehaimanot and Ashraf Alazadi and paperwork to re-confirm Magdaleno Rose-Avila and Paulina Lopez Bermudez.
- Rosalinda will submit paperwork within the next week to confirm new city council commissioners Shree Dahal, Pradeepta Upadhyay, and Bincy Jacob and paperwork to re-confirm Andrea Caupain.

SOCR Report

Julie sends out the full report via email, but touches on some highlights of the report.

- Due to the City's budget cuts for the Office for Civil Rights in 2012, a submission of a Budget Issue Paper to the Mayor's Office is required in the 4-8% range.

- Bruce Harrell's upcoming computer-related programs for Seattle School District will provide more access and benefit the immigrant and refugee youth, get the word out and voice appreciation to Harrell.
http://www.seattle.gov/Tech/Brainstorm_34/Default.htm \ <http://www.seattle.gov/tech/>
(go to these links for more information on technology offers)
- 2012-2014 RSJI Assessment and three-year plan: Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith and Councilmember Harrell have agreed to serve on the steering committee to develop an RSJI assessment and three-year plan for 2012 to 2014. Julie explains that this assessment will involve both internal and community input with integration of the Immigrant and Refugee Initiative into RSJI, the first planning meeting to commence this month for completion by year-end.

3. City Translation and Interpretation Work Group – Statement of Legislative Intent and Feedback:

Michael Davis and Desiree Tabares facilitated a feedback session to gather information from the Board about questions submitted to improve city services:

- 1) What languages are spoken in the communities you represent?
- 2) Do you think that community members are aware that the city offers interpretation/translation services?
- 3) What feedback can you offer on the translation quality of translated city documents that you have seen?
- 4) What feedback can you offer on interpretation services at city meetings that you have attended?
- 5) From your perspective, what is the most effective way to communicate information to the communities you represent?

Feedback was incorporated into the SLI report provided to Elliott Bronstein. Some of the feedback offered:

Translation of languages offered do not always consider older or different dialects used in other regions.

Communities are not aware of all services offered by the City.

Documents in English state they will translate, but the statement itself is in English.

Word of mouth seems to work best, televised information also works well since visual cues are better for people who do not either read or write English or their own languages.

A representative or "face" from the community is also important in advertising or getting the required information to the specific communities.

Videos – You Tube, Ethnic Media, Newspapers, Radio, Festivals and Celebrations are excellent places to do outreach.

Emails to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Community Centers specific to those communities served, also churches, mosques, temples, local businesses.

Charts and Photos used to explain information.

City Meetings: Differences in translated dialect / old vs. new, Over the Phone translation, no face to look at – Community member translation is better. Seating of individuals where interpreters are or can be seen requires bunching people up, large screen or projection of translation is better. Presenters talk fast and translation is not always correct, notes provided to the translator prior to the meeting would assist the translation.

Ideas for alternatives - Red Cross Language Bank offers some free services, but services are limited. Hiring community translators given an evaluation process.

The final report will be submitted and will be shared with the Commission. Yasemin needs a copy of this report as soon as possible.

4. Proposed Paid Sick Leave Ordinance Support

Gabriela Quintana from Seattle Coalition for a Health Workforce gave a presentation on the benefits of paid sick leave for the employees and employers of Seattle. The proposal would ensure paid sick days for every person working in Seattle. A handout was provided indicating how it would basically work with a breakdown of hours worked and benefits received, depending on the number of employees and the reasons for sick leave use. The chart also shows an estimate of expected use and projected costs and savings. Gabriela also provided a handout of San Francisco's paid sick leave ordinance and the positive outcome of their adoption of this ordinance.

MOTION: Immigrant and Refugee Board to join in support letter for Paid Sick Leave. **PASSED.**

5. Scofflaw:

Brenda Anibarro from Seattle Office for Civil Rights gave an information session regarding the new scofflaw for unpaid parking tickets in Seattle. Starting July 1, 2011, cars with four or more parking tickets will get a boot locking device attached to their vehicle's wheel. The fine will need to be paid within 48 hours in order to have the boot removed, or the vehicle will be towed, after 15 days, the vehicle will then be sold at auction. A fee will also be charged for removal/return of the boot. Tickets paid in full during May and June will not include interest and collection fees. Brenda provided a frequently asked questions handout along with the warning notices with numbers to call for more information. If there are questions from the community, please forward them to Brenda.

6. Commission Structure, Addition of Executive Meeting, Vote for New Co-Chair, etc.

The previous committee structure no longer applies and new members need to be assigned. Addition of an Executive Meeting for Co-Chairs and Leads will be discussed and voted on at June's meeting.

New Commission Handbooks and Orientation Training for Commissioners will be given in the coming months.

Jesus Rodriguez was nominated as the new Co-Chair, voting will take place via email or at the next meeting.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM