



**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission  
May 2nd, 2012, 6:00-8:00 PM  
City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room-L280**

## **Meeting Minutes**

- Commissioners Present:** Devon Abdallah, Cherry Cayabyab, Shree Ram Dahal, Pradeepta Upadhyay, Andrea Caupain, Bincy Jacob, Jesus Rodriguez,
- Commissioners Absent:** Mohamed Hassan, Michael Neguse, Magdaleno M. Rose-Avila
- Commissioners by Phone:** Ashraf Alazadi, Tsegaba Woldhaimanot
- SOCR Staff Present:** Julie Nelson, Ron Ramp
- Guests:** Synthia Melton, interested in new OIR office, and the commission
- Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:00 PM

### **SOCR Report; Julie Nelson, Director**

Julie discussed the next five commission meeting. It will be held May 9<sup>th</sup> in the Mayor's Office. Julie discussed the agenda. The budget processes will be discussed. The SPD 20/20 proposals will be covered. Julie mentioned upcoming RSJI community training opportunities. Julie spoke about SOCR receiving a HUD fair housing grant. The grant will deal with light rail development in the south end. SOCR is working with homesight mortgage on home ownership for Muslim communities.

### **OIR Update/Director Selection**

The mayor has completed interviewing the final candidates for the director's position. An announcement is expected soon. Prior to a press release the commission chairs will be notified when the selection has been made. The city received 175 applications for the Policy and Development position. The new director will handle the hiring for this position.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Elevate visibility of Immigrant and Refugee Commission**

This group is working on meeting logistics.

### **Tracking & Responding to Key issues that affect the Immigrant and Refugee Communities**

Jesus is working on meeting with Chief Diaz.

Bincy is working on the bias crimes. Bincy is in the processes of coordinating with other commissions interested in this.

I.D. tracking is a critical issue. The commission will work with the new OIR office on this.

### **Creating Protocols**

Devon passed out forms for tracking monthly committee reports. The committee lead will fill it out, and submit it to the Co-Chairs and commission staffer.

Devon discussed the protocol for submitting agenda items. Every agenda item should have the topic, presenter, title, time estimate, etc.

Please share good protocols that have been developed that could be applicable to the commission.

### **April Minutes approved**

### **Commissioner Candidate Review**

The commission reviewed nine commissioner applications. After discussing each candidate the commission decided to interview 7 of the 9 candidates.

Currently the commission meets the minimum demographic requirements except for youth. The commission must have two youth appointments, and currently has one. Youth is defined as currently under 25 years old.

Jesus will be on the interview panel. James Bush from the Mayor's office is usually on the panel, and someone from SOCR

Action Item: Ron will find the commissioner interview questions and pass them to Jesus.

### **Announcements**

City council announces upcoming budget meetings.

### **Secure Communities**

Bincy talked about secure communities. The commission discussed the federal (ICE) finger print sharing program. This would mandate all Washington State law enforcement agencies share finger prints with ICE. This would be for every arrest. Even those found innocent could be deported. This is area of concern for the commission.

The idea of listening sessions was mentioned. It was said Horhay would be a good resource.

**Motion** to send a letter of concern to the Mayor and City Council. Motion Passed

Action item: Jesus agreed to draft the letter.

The May Day marches where discussed. The notion of a press release was discussed about the May Day march.

Bincy discussed the ACLU support of united for marriage act referendum. Bincy also mentioned the ACLU is against DNA collection upon arrest, similar to finger prints collection.

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***The Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM***