

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

February 6, 2018 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michele Ramirez, Luis Ortega, Batkhaan Namshir, Jessica Yu, Jeniffer Calleja, Dori Cahn, Farhiya Mohamed, Mark Galang, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Kiwai Lai, Kianoush Naficy

Commissioners Absent: Isatou Jallow, Marilena Morales

OIRA Staff Present: Maha Jahshan

Guests: Andres Mantilla, Evan Philip, Paul Quinonez-Figueroa

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Luis opened the meeting.

Discussion (Andres Mantilla, Evans Philip, Paul Quinonez-Figueroa)

Mayor Durkan's Outreach team met with the commissioners to get a chance to hear about what the commission is working on and to share the Mayoral priorities with them. Some of the ideas discussed:

- 1) [Seattle Promise](#)- Mayor Durkan's initiative to provide two years of free college tuition to Seattle Public Schools graduates.
- 2) Homelessness & Housing- the commission's workplan entails providing an immigrant and refugee lens to reevaluate the policies around these issues. They are interested to continue working with the Mayor's office to provide their expertise on these issues. One of the suggestions is for the commission to participate in the One Table conversations.
- 3) [Domestic Worker Bill of Rights](#)- the Mayor's office is working with CM Mosqueda to introduce a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights that will be a policy shift for the City.
- 4) Census 2020- the Mayor's Office indicated the importance of this issue for Immigrant and Refugee communities and that it will require grassroots organizing strategies that include partnerships with community based organizations and City departments. The commission was invited to be part of the work.

Director 's Report (Maha)

Maha gave the Director's Report in lieu of Cuc. She highlighted OIRA's upcoming body of work and included an update on the Seattle United Mega Workshop. The workshop was attended by over 1,500 people. 491 of the participants received help with their citizenship applications, 535 with immigration legal consultations. There were over 800 volunteers, including 160 interpreters who provided help in over 20 languages.

Executive Session (All)-

Commissioners went into executive session.

Announcements (All)- The commissioners considered the upcoming dates of various upcoming community events and shared information with others.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00 pm.