

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

August 6, 2019 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maya Babla Appiah, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Gina Aaftaab, Maria Zepeda Flores, Farhiya Mohamed, Ankita Patel, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe, Eric Holzapfel, Johnson Nguyen

OIRA Staff Present: José Manuel Vasquez

Guests: Deputy Mayor Shefali Ranganathan, Paul Quiñonez-Figueroa

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Ankita and Maya opened the meeting. Minutes for April, May, June, and July were approved unanimously.

Guest: Deputy Mayor Ranganathan (All)

Deputy Mayor Ranganathan joined this month's commission meeting and spoke about what it means to be a sanctuary city. Areas of focus included Seattle Promise, quality childcare for all, affordable housing, and economic empowerment.

OIRA Report (José Manuel)

José Manuel shared current updates on the work OIRA is doing.

Updates on Commissioner Selection Process (All)

Commissioner Applications period has ended. Committee has been composed to review and interview applicants for recommendation for appointment.

Community and Subcommittee Updates (All)

Commissioners shared various community events. Commissioners to send community events/updates to José Manuel one week ahead of meeting to include in Director's report.

Census Update (All)

Gina shared updates from Census Task Force. Upcoming funding opportunity by Census Regional Fund. One-pagers are being developed on how to work with immigrant and refugee populations. Canvassing currently taking place verifying addresses. Promoting seattlecensus.org as primary source of resources and information.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00pm