

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

July 7, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maya Appiah, Johnson Nguyen, Shelani Vanniasinkam, N. Gina Aaftaab, Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Riddhi Mukhopadehyay, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Ilays Aden, Farhiya Mohamed, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Ankita Patel, Amanda Sandoval, Karen Gamez

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe

Staff Present: José Manuel Vasquez, Paul Quiñonez-Figueroa

Guests: SPD Assistant Chief Adrian Diaz

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Maria and Gina opened the meeting.

Action Taken:

- Approval of minutes was tabled for next month.

Conversation w/ SPD Chief Best

- Assistant Chief of Police Chief Diaz from the Community Policing Bureau joined the commission this month. Chief Best was not able to attend due to personal reasons.
- Seattle has 13,800 officers as part of Seattle Police Department.
- Last year alone (2019) 40% of SPD's new hires were POC or women.
- Chief Best is a member of the Law-enforcement Immigration Task Force, advocating for immigration reform.
- SPD is shifting away from "Reform" and working towards "Re-envisioning" how community policing is done.
- SPD is internally assessing staffing makeup, will conduct various community engagement activities to get direct feedback from community.
- IRC wants to be a partner in these efforts to engage community as community policing is reimagined.
- Communities want more access to information about police accountability, going beyond just putting it on a website.
- IRC would like to invite Chief Best to attend a future meeting to continue this dialogue.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00 pm