

## Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Devon Alisa Abdallah, Ph.D. and Jesus Ybarra Rodriguez, Co-Chairs

December 4, 2012

Time	Agenda	Presenter
6:00-6:05	Welcome & Housekeeping Approve November Minutes	Co-Chairs
6:05-6:15	OIRA Report	Magdaleno Rose-Avila
6:15-6:30	Commissioner Recruitment Update	Sahar Fathi
6:30-6:40	Bylaws	Co-Chairs
6:40-7:10	Review Strategic Planning Meeting notes - food for thought for 2013 work plan	Co-Chairs
7:10-7:15	Reminder of upcoming meetings – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No January Commissioner Meeting</li><li>• 12 January Commissioner Orientation</li><li>• 29 and 31 January RSJI Trainings</li><li>• 5 Feb first I &amp; R Commission meeting of 2013</li></ul>	Co-Chairs
7:55-8:00	Announcements	All
8:00	Adjournment	All





**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission**  
**December 6, 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**City Hall, Boards and Commission Room L-280**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Devon Alisa Abdallah, Ph.D., Mohamed Sheikh Hassan, Michael Neguse, Andrea Caupain, Shree Ram Dahal, Pradeepta Upadhyay, Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Yasemin San, Bincy Jacob

**Commissioners Absent:** Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Jesus Y. Rodriguez, Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Ashraf Alazadi

**Commissioners by Phone:** Cherry Cayabyab

**SOCR Staff Present:** Julie Nelson, Glenn Harris, Rosalinda Hoskins

**Guests:**

**Guest Speakers:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:00 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** November Minutes approved by vote.

**1. Welcome / Housekeeping / Announcements**

**Introduction**

- November Minutes approved by vote
- Announcements:
- Danny Vega, a 58-year-old gay man, was a South Seattle hairdresser and prominent member of the City's Filipino community. He was well-known in Seattle's LGBTQ community, including for his participation in the Miss FCS Gay and Miss Asian Gay pageants, and is warmly remembered for his affable nature and creativity. On the evening of November 15, 2011, Mr. Vega was brutally robbed and beaten by three teens in Seattle's Rainier Valley neighborhood. He was taken to Harborview Medical Center with life-threatening injuries and passed away on November 27, surrounded by family and friends. Reports have suggested that Mr. Vega may have been targeted due to his sexual orientation. The Homicide and Assault Unit of the Seattle Police Department is actively investigating the crime and whether the attack was motivated by Mr. Vega's sexual orientation, national origin, or other personal characteristics. A community

meeting will be held **Wednesday, Nov. 30th**, at 6 p.m. at the Filipino Community Center (5740 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S.).

Commissioners attended the community meeting as well as a meeting to discuss police accountability on November 30<sup>th</sup> at City Hall to support the LGBT and Asian-Pacific Islander communities.

Metro Bus Line #42 will be cut when the light rail is opened, low-income and elderly populations will be affected, the Commission voted and agreed to write a letter in support of keeping Metro Line #42. Cherry will draft the letter for signature.

At a Farm Worker's Meeting November 20, 2011, a large labor force, including undocumented workers, turned out against mandatory use of the E-Verify system for employment. The current E-Verify system is a voluntary internet-based database used to help employers confirm whether individuals are authorized to work in the United States. The system has errors and has indicated that legal workers are actually un-documented. The Government Accountability Office's December 2010 report indicates that E-Verify errors are still common when it comes to foreign-born workers and could lead to the "appearance of discrimination". The Commission will follow this issue and determine what action is needed.

A November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding Family & Youth Levy raised concerns about who will receive grant funding through an Oversight Committee. While the City makes this decision, the Commission would like to meet with Holly Miller, Director, Office of Education, about Commission representation and input on the Oversight Committee's decision.

SPU translation and interpretation attempts at community meetings are poor. Meetings have been held to improve services, but little or no improvements are noticed. The Commission will save any documents and discuss at a later meeting.

Some banks are now closing business with other countries, such as Somalia, which will create major impacts to East African refugee camps and businesses that provide support to the refugee camps. The Commission will follow this issue and determine what action is needed.

## **2. SOCR Report**

Julie sends out the full report via email.

For a copy of the full report, contact Rose or Julie.

Human Rights Day is December 8<sup>th</sup>, in City Hall's Bertha Knight Landes Room at 6 PM.

## **3. Retreat Update**

Andrea Caupain provided a draft retreat agenda for Team Building, Orientation and Goal Implementation. Darryl Smith, Deputy Mayor will be in attendance for opening remarks.

## **5. Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

The new office will be established by January 31, 2012. The Commission was under the impression that in support of establishment of the new office, no positions would be cut, however, Rosalinda Hoskins, Commission Liaison, position was cut. The Commission agreed to write a letter to Council.

The Co-Chairs met with the Mayor's office regarding Commission input toward the hiring of the Director for the new office. The Mayor would like to hold between 2-3 meetings with 6-10 people from the immigrant and refugee communities for suggestions or names of individuals to contact for the Director's position. The Mayor would like to begin the hiring process by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

***The Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM***

