



# City of Seattle

Michael Patrick McGinn, Mayor

## Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Director



### AGENDA

Immigrant and Refugee Commission

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Room L280

Time	Agenda	Presenter
6:00-6:05	Welcome & Housekeeping Approve July Minutes	Co-Chairs
6:05-6:15	OIRA Report	Magdaleno Rose-Avila
6:15-7:15	Seattle Police Department	Assistant Chief Sanford
7:15-7:30	Work plan - Housing	Co-Chairs
7:30-7:45	Committee Report Back	All
7:45-7:55	2012 Retreat & Co-Chairs	Co-Chairs
7:55-8:00	Announcements	All
8:00	Adjournment	All

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**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission**  
**August 7th, 2012, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room-L280**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Jesus Rodriguez, Shree Ram Dahal, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Michael Neguse, Mohamed Sheikh Hassan,

**Commissioners Absent:** Cherry Cayabyab, Bincy Jacob, Andrea Caupain

**Commissioners by Phone:** Ashraf Alazadi, Devon Abdallah

**OIRA Staff Present:** Sahar Fathi, Magdaleno Rose-Avila

**Guests:** Mariya Kochubev

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

**Introductions & Welcome-Jesus Rodriguez, Co-chair**

Members and guests were welcomed including Sahar Fahti, new addition to the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs who brings in much experience to the position as a Policy Analyst. Also introduced was Mariya Kochubev recently recommended youth appointee to Mayor McGinn by the I & R Commissioners.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Michael Neguse with second by Mohamed Hassan to approve August 7th, 2012 minutes--all in favor, minutes approved.

**History and Reflection of September 11th**

The Commissioners held a somber yet significant discussion regarding the historic events of 9/11 and the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers where thousands of American citizens and residents of all ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds were killed by the planes crashing into the buildings. The results of this dreadful action had many negative repercussions on innocent persons of Muslim, Arab and even Latino backgrounds. We must always remind ourselves that we are all immigrants and refugees to America (except Native Americans) and share the land and its resources without resorting to racism and outright prejudice.

**OIRA Report - Sahar Fathi**

Sahar spoke about her personal background and her passion around immigrant and refugee issues.

## **2012 Retreat and Strategic Planning**

The previously scheduled October 21<sup>st</sup> Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners Retreat at the old CAMP agency site has been temporarily postponed until the addition of new Commissioners. We are losing several key veterans this year as 50% of the commissioners' term will end in January 2013 and need to recruit additional members. Nominations for new co-chairs are also in order as Jesus is leaving after January 2013 and Devon wants to give new persons an opportunity to lead. The retreat will be replaced by a Strategic Planning session.

## **I & R Outreach and Recruitment**

This effort continues as we approach the end of 2012. The new OIRA director, Leno Avila (former Commissioner) has insisted that all past I & R Commission applicants be re-interviewed as there was no Mayoral representative during the most recent interview process. Jesus protested against re-interviews in that all protocols were followed as per our previous sponsor, the Seattle Office of Civil Rights policies and the next steps are for the Mayor to interview those candidates recommended (Mariya Kochubey and Nhi Tran) by the membership of the I & R Commission. If previous candidates wish to re-apply, that would be up to them. Any new or subsequent protocols by the Mayor, OIRA or the Seattle City Council need to be revised and standardized to be more inclusive and respectful of I & R Commission actions.

## **Voter Registration**

Devon Abdallah, I & R Co-chair just returned re-energized from the National Democratic Convention and strongly urges all Commissioners to become involved with new Voter Registration efforts before October 6, 2012. Everyone agreed that the upcoming Presidential elections will be key to America's future.

## **OIRA Reception**

Sahar announced the dates for the reception for the new Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs on September the 18th and was very pleased with the number of community representatives who have signed up to attend.

## ***The Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 PM***