

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

February 3, 2015 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michael Neguse, Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Dori Cahn, Mindy Au, Jeniffer Calleja, Michele Ramirez, Mohamed Adan, Veasna Adrian Hoy, Simon Khin, Riddhi Mukhopadhyay

Commissioners Absent: Farhiya Mohamed, Roxana Norouzi, Kianoush Naficy, Shree Ram Dahal

Guests: Michael Davis, Sudha Nandagopal, Maru Mora Villalpando, Sandy Restrepo, Anthony Porish, John Spadey

OIRA Staff Present: Sahar Fathi, Maha Jahshan

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)-

Jen opened the meeting. Michael Neguse was honored for his service to the commission. Maha was introduced as new staff for the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Mindy moved the January minutes, Dori seconded. All eligible to approve did so unanimously. Riddhi abstained.

Northwest Detention Center briefing (Maru/Sandy)

Dori introduced the briefing as part of the work of the Immigrant subcommittee. Maru gave a background on Collectiva Legal. She provided details on the Detention Center – including additional information around security levels, capacity, Geo, and ICE. Sandy gave history on the fasting. They both were asked about additional policies that could be supportive from the City of Seattle. There was some discussion around post-conviction relief.

Director's Report (Sahar) -

Sahar reported on this in Cuc's absence – the report was largely around the new hires for Ready to Work and Language Access. The report also discussed an update on the No More Deportations Resolution, and Administrative Relief.

Subcommittee Updates (All)

The Education subcommittee reported on their work supporting the Mayor's Preschool Plan. They have also had an opportunity to begin serving on DEEL RFP processes. The Immigration

subcommittee reported on the upcoming Northwest Detention Center visit. The Economic Justice subcommittee reported that they were meeting with attorneys and other advisors on UVisas. They would begin work on a letter or resolution around federal policy that would request an increase in quotas. They also discussed next steps on the homelessness questions project.

Emerging trends in the community (guests, All)-

Anthony Porish spoke about the American Immigration Forum and their ongoing outreach. They want to get more information out to the community. John Spadey shared their desire to partner with the commission around their surveys.

Mohamed spoke to current issues around Somali grocers and WIC. He suggested the commission write a letter.

Adjourn

8:00 pm.