

Immigrant Voting Rights Taskforce

July 8, 2014: 5:00-6:30 PM

City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Luis Fraga, Sharon Maeda, Arsalan Bukhari, Many Uch, Emilio Garza, Tania Santiago, Heather Villanueva, Rich Stolz, Trang Tu, Laura Flores Cantrell

Members Absent: Diane Butler, Dorothy Wong

OIRA Staff Present: Aaliyah Gupta, Sahar Fathi

Guests: Graciela E. Nunez

Call to Order: 4:45 pm

Welcome (Sharon)

Luis opened the meeting and announced his departure.

Current Draft of the Report - Review (Sharon)

Luis and his research assistant provided an update on the data they have been researching. The group discussed the California model that allows for additional languages under Section 203. The Justice Department has a full list of demographic numbers for every city, which shows the reasoning behind Chinese and Vietnamese being covered by Section 203.

There was discussion around the literacy rate. Luis shared that there are 119,640 citizens who are voting age and LEP in King County. There were questions around obtaining this information for the City, as well as finding out how many of these individuals are registered to vote. The State of California has legislation that was passed in 2001 that requires the Secretary of State to gather data and update as appropriate annually. There was discussion as to whether this was also appropriate for Washington state. The legislation also asks city/county to make special efforts if a group is 3% of the population, which is different from the Section 203 legislation that has 5% of the population. The City/County of San Francisco passed a city ordinance that requires them to produce an annual report on all outreach efforts and to do this according to specified criteria.

There was discussion as to whether recommendations should be included that a specific city agency be responsible for gathering data. The group felt that OIRA should have oversight and should put a report out that updates the public on these efforts, but that the office should not be doing number crunching. The group felt that numbers would add credibility.

There was discussion on the structure of the report, the taskforce felt it should include infographics and historical context. There was technical review of the information in the draft thus far, and agreement that the number of resident aliens should be included in the report. The group agreed that they wanted an executive summary done in multiple languages and spent some thoughtful discussion around retaining a writer for the report.

Announcements

Sharon announced that the Taskforce had been invited to a hearing on drop box placement in King County Council Chambers on July 22 at 9:30 am. Emilio and Many will testify.

Wrap-Up (Sharon)

First draft was assigned to the group to be done by the next week.

Adjournment

6:35 pm.