

## Immigrant and Refugee Commission minutes of July 3rd, 2012 at CAMP

Members present: Devon Abdallah, Jesus Y. Rodriguez, Cherry Cayabyab, Bincy Jacob, Tsegaba Woldehalmanot, Mohamed S. Hassan, Andrea Caupain.

Guests: Minh Duc Nguyen (Helping Link), Sindy Nguyen (Friends of Seattle World School), Marjorie Lepley (Friends of Seattle World School), Jorge L. Baron (NWIRP), Jessica Salvador, Vu Le

I. Welcome and Housekeeping----Devon opened meeting with introductions and appreciation for Andrea Caupain (CAMP) for her excellent hospitality in hosting the I & R meeting. Next, the I & R minutes for June 5, 2012 were approved based on a motion by Andrea and second by Mohamed.

II. OIRA Report-----Leno unable to attend I & R meeting, but sent June 2012 update including schedule of first month's meetings, candidate interviews summary, OIRA Director confirmation hearings, Violence Against Women Act letter of support, President Obama's deferred action for young immigrants, and the Mayor's Refugee Day Proclamation for June 20th.

III. Seattle World School-----Tsegaye Gebru, Vu Le and Jessica Salvador made a presentation regarding this Washington State accredited high school located at 27th and Madison (Seattle) specifically set up to assist immigrant and refugee youth academically. Vu Le stated that immigrant and refugee youth are not doing well in terms of graduation rates from high school. The Seattle School District Board of Directors has not made SWS a high priority despite very favorable community support, a 97 % student attendance rate, documented success in mathematics and other subject areas. Over 25 community persons have provided pro bono consultant research hours, more than 1000 community members have participated in surveys and the stand alone model was approved by Superintendent Goodloe Johnson. Despite all this, the program has been moved 5 times and it remains as an orientation center (report attached)

When asked what the Seattle World School wants from the Immigrant and Refugee Commission, they responded by asking for a letter of support that gives them a stable location, a reasonable budget and continued community support for their mission. A motion to that effect was made by the I & R Commission Board Chair, Devon and seconded by Jesus. All in favor as motion passed. Devon will draft letter of support from I & R Commission.

IV. DREAM Deferred Action----Jorge Baron, Executive Director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project made a presentation regarding President Barack Obama's June 15th, 2012 announcement temporary deferred action on undocumented youth (DREAMERS) residing in the USA. He stated that things are moving very quickly, it is temporary in nature, it is not a statute or part of Congressional action or the Dream Act, many items remain unclear and the process

to initiate government(USCIS) action has not been released yet. Additionally, Jorge mentioned that there are legal risks involved for those that wish to apply for this temporary deferred action on their immigration status. One felony or a significant number of misdemeanors will probably exclude some applicants. Those interested in pursuing this deferred action or those currently in deportation proceedings should contact legal counsel right away. The NWIRP will provide information by video, at their website or via phone contact (206-587-4009 and 509-854-2100). As far as updates on the issue of Secure Communities, Jorge mentioned little progress has been made and to wait until after the November Presidential elections for further action. Follow up work could be done with King County and individual Community Based Organizations should continue their support.

V. Seattle Police Department 20/20 Update----Jesus Rodriguez reported that an update has been scheduled with SPD representatives at our I & R August 7th, 2012 meeting. We have allowed 60 minutes for the SPD 20/20 presentation and a 30 minute Q & A session in order to give our diverse community representatives an opportunity to participate. He passed out his copy of the 20/20 SPD Report and a letter from the Multiracial Task Force Recommendations on Police Accountability. He asked that Devon contact Thao Trinh, City of Seattle or the SPD directly for copies to be sent to all I & R members for review and suggestions.

#### VI. Committee Reports----

(a) Hate Crimes Forum---Bincy announced a meeting for either the 18th or 25th of September this year.

(b) Elevating Visibility---Tsegabe reviewed I & R Work Plan and asked if we are interested in sponsoring a Town Hall meeting this year.

(c) I & R ListServe----Bincy suggested that this would be a great way for I & R member communications and updates and she could take the lead in setting this up.

(d) New I & R Commissioners----Jesus reported on his and Yemane Gebremichael's (former I & R Liason) interviews of applicants for membership in the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. He recommended (1) Mariya Kochubey (Slavic community) be approved as a youth representative

(2) Nhi Tran (Vietnamese community) be approved

(3) David Ayala-Zamora (Latino community) be approved

After some discussion, Mariya Kochubey (youth) and Nhi Tran (Vietnamese) were approved. David Ayala (Latino) not approved

Minutes by JYR