



**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
February 2, 2011, 6:00-8:00 PM
Room CH-370, City Hall**

Meeting Minutes

- Commissioners Present:** Devon Alisa Abdallah, Jesus Rodriguez, Mengstab Tzegai, Yasemin San, Cherry Cayabyab
- Commissioners Absent:** Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Andrea Caupain, Paulina Lopez Bermudez, Muhamed Qatrani, Alaric Bien, Halmima Dahir, Shankar Narayan
- Commissioners by Phone:** Magdelona Rose-Avila
- SOCR Staff Present:** Julie Nelson, Glenn Harris, Jacque Larrainzar, Rosalinda Hoskins
- Guests:** Ashraf Alazadi
- Guest Speakers:** N/A
- Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:00 PM
- Approval of Minutes:** January 5, 2011 minutes approved

1. Welcome/Housekeeping/Announcements

- Julie Nelson introduced and welcomed Rosalinda Hoskins, new staff liaison. Julie distributed the SOCR Report.
- Devon welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Jesus announced February 10th is Washington State's Annual Refugee and Immigrant Legislative Day in Olympia. It is an opportunity to share your concerns and ideas with legislators to help shape policies that will impact the lives and future of immigrants and refugees. Free transportation and childcare is provided. For more info, contact Shui Ching Mo, Annual Fund Development and Events Specialist at (206) 623-1709 or shuiching@rewa.org.
- Devon announced The Japanese American Citizens League, in partnership with the Council on American-Islamic Relations-WA (CAIR); OneAmerica; the Arab American Community Coalition (AACC) and others are accepting applications for the Bridging Communities-Seattle Program for Muslim American, Arab American

and Japanese American youth. Candidates will attend workshops focused on human rights, community, culture, religion, community service and advocacy to gain understanding between the differences and commonalities that unite us under one Seattle community. Application deadline is February 25th, www.jacl.org/bc-seattle. For more info contact Mackenzie Walker at mwalker@jacl.org.

- A Public Forum on Police Accountability is being held at City Hall February 3 at 7PM.

2. Action Items

Hiring and appointments update/sharing resumes received to date

- Julie Nelson gave an overview of vacancies for recruitment and provided a handout chart listing current members' term dates with a racial demographic chart. Julie asked that Commissioners share the Press Release for Commissioner recruiting with possible candidates, the deadline for resume submission is February 11th.
- Julie informed Commissioners that while the Commission was previously under Nick Licata's office when it was housed in DON, it has now shifted to Bruce Harrell's office.
- A stack of applications received were reviewed and possible candidates were chosen to interview. After the February 11th deadline for resume submissions, Rosalinda will follow-up and start the interview process as soon as possible.

Proposed Legislation

- Change responsibility for the Advisory Board from Dept. of Neighborhoods to SOCR.
- Change references from 4 Commission Meeting to 5 Commission meeting. Julie announced the 5 Commission meeting will be held March 9th, to include Beth Goldberg, Chief Diaz, and others – Agenda will be forthcoming.
- Change Term Limits from 2 terms to 3 terms
- **MOTION:** Change the name of the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board to the Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission. **Action: PASSED**

1. **Legislative Update:**

- Jacque Larrainzar gave an overview of how SOCR arrives at and monitors legislative items raised by the community. Once the list is drafted, the Office of Intergovernmental Relations works with SOCR and other city departments to discuss what will be added to the legislative agenda. It is important to write letters of support to agenda items the Commission feels strongly about. SOCR will help with this process.

Devon raised a concern over the new legislation over issuing Driver's Licenses and the connection they are making with requiring proof of legal immigrant status.

Jesus would like to see more outreach to the public and SPD concerning awareness of the ordinance requiring officers to not ask for proof of citizenship. He would like to learn what type of process SPD uses in recruiting and selecting officers for the force and the type of cultural competency training they are receiving to see if it's appropriate. There is a concern that the SPD is supporting hate and racism by promoting articles such as the one Officer Pomper wrote in the Union newspaper, *The Guardian*, about his criticisms on RSJI.

Julie mentioned that the March 9th 5-Commission meeting would be a great place to bring the concerns around SPD, other Commissions may have begun work in this area and to coordinate. Tomorrow night's meeting at City Hall is also a good place to voice concerns about the process.

Another concern Jesus raised is the Employment Reform for immigrants to learn English within 8 months- there was talk of an extension of time, but now with the budget concerns, this did not happen.

Yasemin asked Glenn if he would come back to share info concerning what work the City is doing for interpretation. What resources there are and best practices or data. Glenn indicated he will follow-up with the IDT group that is managing this project.

2. 2011 Work Plan:

Glenn Harris gave an overview of the work plan and talked about how the work plan is built from items based on priorities given at the last meeting. Julie asked the Commission to be mindful of the Commission's role in City Government and to choose work plan items that will have the most meaningful impact.

After voting, it was decided by the Commission to work on the first three work plan items as priority and to tack on the last two items if they have time toward the year end, possibly carry them over to the next year.

The Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM