



**City of Seattle**  
**Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**  
 Stella Chao, Director

**Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board**  
**April Meeting Minutes**

Venue: City Hall Room 370  
 Date: April 7, 2010  
 Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Attendance:**

- *Board Members:* Devon Alisa Abdallah, Andrea Caupain (via phone), Halima Dahir, Paulina Bermudez-Lopez, Lesley A. Irizarry-Hougan, Muhamed Qatrani, Jesus Rodriquez, Magdalena Rose-Avila, Yasemin San, Mengstab Tzegai
- *City Staff:* Roxana Norouzi (DON), Yemane Gebremicael (DON), Stella Chao (DON)
- *Presenter:* Mona Han Coalition for Refugees from Burma (CRB)

**Next Meeting Info:** Wednesday May 5, 2010 at City Hall-Snack Muhamed Qatrani

**April Action Items:**

Date	Item	Who	Completed	Comments
4/7/10	Review I&R website and update bios	All board members		
4/7/10	Contact NCI to respond regarding outline and presentation at subcommittee meeting	City policy subcommittee		
4/7/10	Send budget letter to all councilmembers and mayor	City staff	4/13/10	
4/7/10	Attend budget public hearings	April 28-muhamed Q & Mengstab May 4-Muhamed, Jesus, Devon		
4/7/10	Complete and submit proposal for the Seattle Race Conference	Halima		To be completed by 4/16/10
4/7/10	Send individual letters to city council and mayor about I&R budget priorities	All Board members		To be completed by 4/14/10
4/7/10	Determine protocol for presenters and meetings with councilmembers	Halima, Paulina		
4/7/10	Send thank you and follow-up letter to CM Conlin	Jesus/city staff	4/13/10	
4/7/10	Send subcommittee mandates to city	All subcommittees		
4/7/10	Contact OIR to get info on refugee resettlement federal extension policy	Yemane		
4/7/10	Create summary of the I&R work plan and talking points for I&R board	Jesus and Leno		



4/7/10	Send CIR letter to mayor and city council	Roxana	4/13/10	
4/7/10	Set up meeting with OIR state and federal lobbyist	Roxana		

### March Action Items Update:

Item	Who	Completed	Comments
Review I&R website and update bios	All board members	Pending-add to may	
Contact NCI to obtain outline of presentation and disseminate to board	Yemane	Completed-city subcommittee needs to respond	
Email Julie Nelson for copy of budget and policy filter	Devon	Completed	
Prepare welcome and questions for meeting with CM Nick Licata	Lesley and All board members	Postponed	
Follow up on budget priorities letter	Alaric to contact Muhamed Q	Completed	
Send individual letters to city council and mayor about I&R budget priorities	All Board members	Pending-add to April	
Determine protocol for presenters and meetings with councilmembers	Cherry, Halima Paulina	Pending-add to April	Halima and Paulina
Send thank you and follow-up letter to CM Conlin	Jesus	Pending-add to April	
Send subcommittee mandates to Yemane	All subcommittees	Pending-add to April	
Distribute census press release	Roxana/Yemane/Stella	3/4/10-complete	
Schedule room for regular city policy subcommittee meetings	Yemane	3/4/10-completed	
State/federal subcommittee to schedule meeting	Lesley	Completed	
Meet with CM Clark	Cherry and Yasemin	Completed	

**Brief Summary:** The meeting began with an announcement that councilmember Nick Licata had to cancel visit due to being ill. Quorum for the meeting was established and the March meeting minutes were approved. A representative from the Coalition for Refugees from Burma (CRB) gave a presentation about Burmese refugees and policy implications that impact Burmese and other refugee populations. After the presentation, the March action items were updated and Yasemin reported back about her meeting with Councilmember Clark. In order to be more cohesive and direct in meetings the board voted to compile a summary of the workplan and talking points for the I&R board. The city and state/federal subcommittees reported back about their meetings that took place this month and their next steps. An announcement was made about the city's budget public hearings and board members agreed to attend both hearings to share community stories and budget priorities. The board also passed a motion to send a letter regarding the I&R board's budget priorities and stance on comprehensive immigration reform to all councilmembers and the mayor. Finally, the board voted to submit a proposal to present at Seattle's Race Conference.

## **Agenda Items:**

### *Housekeeping*

- Councilmember Nick Licata had to cancel visit due to being ill-this will be rescheduled
- Quorum for meeting is established
- Motion to approve March meeting minutes-seconded
  - Vote: all vote in favor of approving March minutes-motion passes unanimously

### *Presentation by Coalition for Refugees from Burma (CRB)-Mona Han*

- Presentation given regarding current status and background of Burmese refugees
- Organization is working with city to advocate and bring issue to Seattle's attention
- Please see attached powerpoint/pdf for more info or [www.allburmarefugees.org](http://www.allburmarefugees.org) or contact Mona Han: [monahan@allburmarefugees.org](mailto:monahan@allburmarefugees.org)
- Homelessness is a huge issue for Burmese and all immigrant/refugee populations
- Board will advocate for policies that support refugees on the local, state and federal level
- Board would like to support legislation to extend resettlement benefits for refugees (RCA) from 8 months to 2 years
  - Yemane will contact OIR to get info/research this legislation and report back to board

### *Review of March Action Items*

- See Above

### *Meeting with CM Clark*

- Yasemin met with CM Clark-Cherry was unavailable
- Shared 2010 action plan
- CM Clark is interested in work of I&R board and attending board meeting
- Spoke to CM Clark about collaborating with other cities regarding issues that impact I&R populations
- Talked about budget cuts that would impact I&R populations and asked to preserve this funding
- Discussed possibility of holding meetings with specific neighborhoods that have high I&R populations to hear concerns
  - CM Clark said it may be possible to do this and she will look into it
- Concern that board is not on the same page about top three issues and purpose
  - Suggestion for ad-hoc subcommittee to be responsible for developing an 'elevator speech' summary of workplan and talking points for I&R board
  - Decisions will then be based on this information/summary
- Discussion about how this should be put together
  - Boar decided to just select board members to complete this instead of assigning the task to a committee
- A summary of the I&R work plan and talking points for I&R board will be compiled by next meeting
  - Jesus and Leno will work on this together

### **State/Federal Policy Subcommittee Report**

- Shankar, Lesley and Yasemin attended first subcommittee meeting
  - Discussed Comprehensive Immigration Reform
  - Subcommittee was unaware that CIR resolution was passed
- Letter supporting CIR was written and board approves to send letter to the mayor and city council by Monday
- Also spoke about budget cuts affecting ESL classes (State Bill 3026)
- Subcommittee would like to meet with state and federal lobbyist at city's OIR
  - City has contacted OIR and will set up meeting with lobbyist late April per OIR directive
  - Roxana will follow up with board with possible meeting times
  - It is suggested that subcommittee have a tight list of expectations for this meeting
- Request for demographics of City of Seattle's Refugee populations
  - Suggestions to try American Community Survey and King County Public Health

### **City Policy Subcommittee Report**

- Sent budget letter to CM Godden
- Sent email to board to ask if budget letter should be sent to mayor and all councilmembers
- Motion to send budget letter to all councilmembers and mayor-motion seconded
  - Vote: all vote in favor of sending budget letter-motion passes unanimously
- Encourage all board members to adapt this letter and send it as individuals as well to increase impact
  - Devon will resend original letter tomorrow
  - Board members agree to send individual letters by next Wednesday
- Obtained RSJI budget filter from Julie Nelson and will have possible RSJI presentation at a subcommittee meeting

### **Budget Public Hearings**

- Flyer about city budget public hearings on April 28 and May 4
  - Important for board members to be present at public hearings and encourage community members to attend
- Board members will attend and use budget letter and stories from community to advocate
  - April 28-Muhamed Q and Mengstab will try to attend and will report at May board meeting
  - May 4-Muhamed Q, Jesus and Devon will try to attend and report at May board meeting

### **Board Presentation at Seattle Race Conference**

- City subcommittee talked about linking policy issues to immigrant and refugee communities and asking board members to present at Seattle Race Conference
  - Halima volunteered to complete proposal and submit it before deadline on April 16th
- Board would like to give presentation on policy and decision making and its importance to I&R populations

- Possibly discuss how I&R board is influencing policy
- Halima, Paulina, and possibly Shankar volunteer to present at the conference on this specific topic
- Motion to submit proposal to present at Seattle Race Conference-motion seconded
  - Vote: motion passes unanimously-proposal will be submitted

### **Announcements**

- Devon-she is on RSJI community round table and will soon be going on maternity leave
  - is concerned about the voice of immigrant and refugee communities not being represented once she is gone
  - RSJI roundtable has chosen education as their main issue and I&R communities need to be considered
  - Contact Devon if you are interested in serving on this board and she will pass info on
- Jesus-US Census is not complete and board members should continue to encourage their communities to return their census forms
- Leno-Immigration Rally to support CIR is this sat April 10<sup>th</sup> and march for immigrant workers rights is on May 1<sup>st</sup>. All board members are encouraged to attend

### **Meeting Adjourned**