



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

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

Venue: South Park; Muy Macho Restaurant  
 Date: September 1, 2010  
 Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Attendance:**

- **Board Members:** Muhamed Qatrani, Alaric Bien, Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Andrea Caupain, Yasemin San, Paulina Lopez Bermudez, Halima Dahir, Jesus Y. Rodriguez, Magdalena A. Rose-Avila, Shankar Narayan, Mengstab Tzegai
- **Absent Board Members:** Devon Alisa Abdallah and Cherry Cayabyab
- **City Staff:** Stella Chao, Candace Inagi (Mayor’s Office), Yemane Gebremicael, Kimberly Hollins,
- **Guests:** Vu Le (Executive Director of Vietnamese Friendship Association and Family and Education Levy committee member), and Alma Rivera (South Park Ambassador for South Park Action Agenda/SP Info Center), Maria Ramirez : Executive Director - Campaña Quetzal)
- **Attending:** Judy Herrera the owner of the restaurant.

**Next Meeting Info:** October 6th, 2010

**September Action Items**

<b>Date Assigned</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Due On</b>	<b>Comments</b>
9/1/10	Plan meeting with Chief Diaz	Leno, Shankar, Alaric		An outline of major talking points was compiled. 1) Agreement with ICE 2) SPD, RSJI and community engagement 3) Cultural competency and other issues.
9/1/10	Letter to Family and Education Oversight Committee needs to be drafted	Alaric and Paulina		The letter will address major points that Major McGinn suggested about the 37 recommendations outlined in the Youth and Families Initiative. Board members will submit suggestions.
9/1/10	Board celebration planning for the mid-week of October.	Jesus and Paulina		No date is set yet. The Bertha Landis Room was suggested by Stella for the venue celebration.
9/1/10	Check with Dept. of Tech. on the feasibility of creating a calendar that is accessible to all board members.	Stella		The need for improving email efficiency was needed for board members who seen some emails as redundant or of low importance.
9/1/10	Develop recommendations for HSD regarding collection of demographic data by CBOS.	Jesus and Yemane		The details of this item were revisited during the meeting and Jesus and Yemane volunteered to work on completing this.



**Update on August Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Board members to send preliminary list of contacts to add to directory	Jesus	Pending	Jesus has only received a list of I&R contacts from Yemane. He still needs the board to forward any contacts they have directly to him.

**Brief Summary:** The meeting convened with the board establishing quorum and voting was completed for the August meeting. August action items are updated and the 2010 I&R work plan in final form was approved by the board. The subcommittee discussed the issues from meeting with the Mayor; Family and Education Levy funding, human services funding and budget implications, public safety, immigration reform, and the impact on immigrant and refugee communities along with other initiatives. In response to the Board’s request for a celebration, DON will host a larger venue celebration for all volunteer boards and committees the DON supports. September’s guest speakers included Executive Director Vu Le from the Vietnamese Friendship Association and Maria Ramierz from Campana Quetzal regarding the Families and Education Levy and funding for Immigrant and Refugee children.

*Housekeeping*

- Stella suggested and the Board agreed (Voting on the new proposed venue celebration with the other committees was conducted and 1 member abstained) to having the Boards celebration in the middle of October on a week day in the Bertha Knight Landes room in City Hall. Date TBD.
- Jesus and Paulina agreed to work on a Immigrant and Refugee Board display and one-sheet summary and to have the interested board members email them about volunteering to plan the celebration.
- SOCR representative Jacque Larrainzar was absent from the board meeting. The intent was to have her join the board meeting in order to build stronger alliances with RSJI.

*I&R Work Plan*

- Jesus and Leno completed the work plan and this item was reviewed and approved during the board meeting. The board agreed that the work plan should cover strategic long-term goals for advocating equitable funding for immigrant and refugee communities. They agreed to continue monitoring the local, state and federal policy-making process.

*Announcements*

- Leno is having a retirement party on September 12<sup>th</sup> and all board members and guests were welcomed to come join him and his family.

### *Communication Protocols: Improving efficiency through email*

- Paulina commented on the importance of differentiating between high and low importance emails and how the current communication process needed to be improved.
- Board members agreed that they don't have time to read everything and Paulina suggested implementing an online Google or City managed calendar that was assessable to all board members in order to track important meetings and updates.
- Stella will check with the City Department of Technology to see if they will be able to set up an online calendar for the board to use.

### *Chief Diaz and Seattle Community Outreach*

- Shankar mentioned that improving de-escalation training, cultural competency and SPD engagement with RSJI was highly needed for improved SPD work performance in the Seattle community.
- Jesus said that figuring out how to engage the whole Seattle Police Guild in order to make the entire body accountable for work performance was needed. Shankar said that Diaz can hold officers accountable regardless of SPG involvement.
- Paulina volunteered to have board members email her about ideas to help improve outreach among the immigrant and refugee communities.
- Muhamed voiced his concerns over the diverse group of Muslim groups in the Seattle area and the need for cultural sensitivity to mosques in the community. He said that a group of Muslim individuals wanted to have a presentation at our meeting and he will follow up on this with the board.

### *Guest Speakers: Executive Director of Vietnamese Friendship Association Vu Le & Maria Ramierz, Campana Quetzal*

- A letter on behalf of the immigrant and refugee community and other cultural community based organizations were discussed by Vu Le and Maria Ramirez. Both speakers asked the board if they will be willing to support the letter in reference to the Immigrant and Refugee Family Engagement and Academic Enrichment Project. This project will support 5 trusted community based agencies with a credible history of assisting I&R communities effectively. Stella advised the board to write their own letter in support of the funding and to address the 37 recommendations outlined in the Youth and Family Initiative that McGinn recommended.
- Maria explained that many of the LEP (limited English proficient) students consist of the top 5 language groups which include: Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali and Tagalog in Seattle Public Schools. The current dropout rate is 50% among these students and the worst dropout rates are among these students were at Cleveland and Rainier Beach High school.

- Both speakers explained the urgency of the targeting this demographic (middle and high school students) was necessary due to the high statistical findings of only 45% of LEP meeting WASL standards and more than 20% of these students make up the greater student population in Seattle Public Schools.
- Maria further explained that the primary objective of the project is to get adequate funding from the Family and Education Levy to support bilingual/bicultural family engagement services.
- Vu and Maria pointed out that most of the funding is going to Early Learning Programs and family support workers won't serve ESL in Seattle Public Schools this year. This includes the cessation ESL evening programs for students.

*Families and Education Levy Oversight Committee Letter Proposal*

- Shankar and Stella suggested that the Board's should frame the Board's position within the 37 recommendations of the Youth and Families Initiative that McGinn mentioned during the meeting with the subcommittee. The board voted to have Paulina and Alaric address the major points outlined in reference to the 37 recommendations within the Youth and Family Initiative.
- Vu Le pointed out that the Education Levy Oversight Committee will be meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**Meeting Adjourned**