



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
 Stella Chao, Director

Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board

November Meeting Minutes

Venue: City Hall – CH 370
 Date: November 3, 2010
 Time: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Attendance:

- **Board Members:** Lesley Irizarry-Hougan, Devon Alisa Abdallah, Alaric Bien, Muhamed Qatrani, Andrea Caupain, Yasemin San, Mengstab Tzegai, Paulina Lopez Bermudez, and Jesus Y. Rodriguez
- **Absent Board Members:** Halima Dahir, Magdaleno A. Rose-Avila, Shankar Narayan, and Cherry Cayabyab
- **City Staff:** Stella Chao DON, Julie Nelson SOCR, Yemane Gebremicael DON, Glenn Harris SOCR, and Reta Gonzales-Cunneutubby DON
- **Guests:** None
- **Attending:**

November Action Items

Date Assigned	Item	Who	Due On	Comments
11/3/10	Board members to send preliminary list of contacts to add to directory	Jesus Rodriguez	Pending This is a carryover item from previous meeting.	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. This is carry over from September. Board members indicated that they will provide their lists to Jesus ASAP
11/3/10	The Board will draft a letter to City Council and will work on strategies to have presence at the upcoming budget hearings stating which cuts they have concerns	Alaric	Before end of Friday 11/5/10.	The letter will touch on concerns such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Center Cuts • Batterers Program cuts • Senior Center Cuts • Emergency Service Center cuts



Date Assigned	Item	Who	Due On	Comments
	on and possibly provide suggestions for other cuts. They will also explore other ways to involve their communities such as using the web, telephone, emails, etc.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1133 279 1490 348">Immigrant and Refugee Initiative Staff cut
11/3/10	Letter to Chief Diaz informing SPD of certain points that are important to the I & R Advisory Board.	Paulina, Jesus, Devon, and Lesley	11/15/10	
11/3/10	Letter to City Council thanking them for the work on funding the South Park Bridge replacement.	Paulina	11/15/10	Also remind them to keep in the social justice and equity issues.
11/3/10	Letter to Governor letting her know that State funding of the Naturalization Program is important to the I & R board.	Lesley and Jesus	11/10/10	Prioritize what the I & R board would like the State to not cut. Send letter on behalf of board and each board member personally.
11/3/10	Have a standard letter prepared for responding to anti-multi-culturalism movements.	Devon	Pending	

Brief Summary: The meeting convened with the board establishing quorum. The minutes from October were approved and Action Items were reviewed.

Jesus Rodriguez informed the board on December 4 White Center will host a community summit. All community is invited. He will be email a flyer with more information.

Chief Diaz Meeting and Seattle Community Outreach

Jesus Rodriguez said the attendance with Chief Diaz and the I & R Advisory Board was well attended. He called it an initial meeting and good start. Touched on all major points the I & R board talked about and said the Chief and staff were open to comments and recommendations and said it was a positive meeting. Also Chief Diaz is open to

looking into any complaints regarding police interactions within the communities, we need to get the message out to our communities to let them know who to contact and how.

Devon Abdallah informed the board that SPD has started neighborhood policing (random door-to-door) interviews in the neighborhoods. They will be getting interpreters soon.

She also informed the board that SPD and KC Sheriff's Office both have "don't ask" immigration status policies but when someone is booked into the KC Jail the database they are connected to may have immigration status.

Julie Nelson said the officers have the discretion and they are getting training on the Race & Social Justice context.

Stella Chao said it is a big system and it is going to take time to get to every officer on the street, but SPD is doing the training.

Board discussed how SPD could go about doing the door-to-door interviews without causing worry to the neighborhoods about why there are police officers knocking on doors at the neighbors houses.

South Park - Update

Paulina Bermudez gave an update that the South Park Bridge replacement has been funded with the support of Senator Patty Murray and Councilmember Jan Drago. Some of the funding comes from: King County, City of Seattle, WSDOT, Puget Sound Regional, Port of Seattle, Federal Dept of Transportation and more.

Board letter to City Council regarding budget cuts

Alaric Bien will draft a letter, forward to board members for comments due back to him before noon Friday, November 5. He will then final and send the letter to City Council. Please look for the email and make sure send him your comments if you have any.

Letter from Congressman Gary Peters of Michigan

Muhammed Qatrani presented the board with a letter from Congressman Gary Peters of Michigan regarding the Re-authorization of Refugee Act of 1980, the extension of cash and medical benefits to refugees. Thinks this needs the boards support and the board needs to get the City Council and the Senators and Representatives to Congress from Washington State to offer their support to the bill when it is introduced to Congress next year.

There were 2800 new refugees from Iraq, Burmese, and Bhutanese located in Washington State in 2010.

It was agreed to move this back as an agenda item at a later date.

Need to watch the current movement against multi-culturalism

Devon Abdallah brought to the attention of the board the current movement against multi-culturalism in Germany. She wants the board to be more aware of issues like that when they are happening.

It was decided the board will get a standard letter ready to respond to any movements against multi-culturalism in the future.

Board members who are leaving and steps for retention and replacement

Several positions will be up for renewal or replacement in January. Stella Chao and Julie Nelson took a count of how many board members would be interested in staying if their position was up for renewal. Stella and Julie will check on who is time is actually up and if they are eligible for renewal on the board.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2010

Meeting Adjourned