

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

April 7, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maya Appiah, Johnson Nguyen, Karen Gamez, Shelani Vanniasinkam, N. Gina Aaftaab, Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Riddhi Mukhopadehyay, Ankita Patel, Amanda Sandoval

Commissioners Absent: Medhanit Abebe, Ilays Aden, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Farhiya Mohamed

Staff Present: Cuc Vu, José Manuel Vasquez

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Maria opened the meeting.

Action Taken:

- Shelani Vanniasinkam has been selected as IRC Designee to join weekly co-chair meetings and be available in the case of the absence of co-chairs.

OIRA Report

Cuc Vu, OIRA Director, shared current updates on the work OIRA is doing.

- OIRA has been activated during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide language access, external affairs, and community engagement for citywide response in collaboration with King County Public Health.

IRC Designee and Representation

- Commissioners discussed creating IRC Designee role to fill in in the case of the absence of co-chairs for immediate responses required during COVID-19.

COVID-19 Community Concerns

- Sub-committees shared feedback from community regarding COVID-19 impacts on immigrant and refugee populations.
 - Importance of language access for COVID-19 information to reach all populations.
 - Awareness of impact on individuals currently in immigration detention who could be exposed to COVID-19.
 - Support needed for immigrant owned small businesses.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00 pm