

**Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission**  
**September 1, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, Johnson Nguyen, N. Gina Aaftaab, Amanda Sandoval, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Karen Gamez, Ankita Patel, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ilays Aden

**Commissioners Absent:** Denisse Guerrero-Harvey, Farhiya Mohamed, Maya Appiah

**Staff Present:** José Manuel Vasquez

**Guests:** Wahab Kromah, Chibueze Anthony Amaechi, Toya Nije, Emmanuel Saah, Wakoko Kannah, Kimbertly Homer

**Call to Order:** 6:04 pm

**Welcome (Co-Chairs)**

Maria and Gina opened the meeting.

**Action Taken:**

- August meeting minutes were approved.

**Moment of Silence**

- Held space to recognize the recent passing of two incredible leaders and advocates for immigrant rights, Rahwa Hatbe and Sarah Leyrer.
- <https://www.kuow.org/stories/rahwa-ogbe-keshi-habte-42-community-organizer-seattle-leader>
- <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattle-attorney-who-championed-workers-rights-identified-as-woman-killed-in-georgetown-crash/>

**Commission Budget**

- Jose provided overview of current commission budget. Commissioners will bring spending proposals to the next commission meeting.

**West African Working Group**

- Group shared a project proposal on community safety. Their work is intended to enhance relationships between police and communities of color.
- Commissioners are supportive of this topic and want to continue the dialogue to enhance race relations between police and communities of color.
- African Working Group is looking for technical support to help design the project and operational support.

**Work Areas Discussion**

- The commission explored how to refocus their energy during ongoing social issues:
  - Focusing on Police Accountability
  - Supporting small business and families impacted by COVID-19.

**Adjourn**

The commission adjourned and went into executive session at 8:04 pm