

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission

February 2nd, 2021 (6:00-8:00 PM)

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Maria Jimenez-Zepeda, N. Gina Aaftaab, Karina San Juan-Guyton, Emmanuel G. V. Dolo, Shelani Vanniasinkam, Ankita Patel, Farhiya Mohamed, Johnson Nguyen, Bao-Tram Do, Amanda Sandoval

Commissioners Absent: Karen Gamez, Ilays Aden, Elrohi Shuge

Staff Present: Peggy Liao

Guests: n/a

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs) Maria and Gina opened the meeting.

Action Taken:

- November meeting minutes were approved.
- Peggy shared January OIRA report. Commissioners will like to learn more about COVID vaccine distribution efforts and actions they can take.
- Community announcement
 - Social Justice Fund's 2020-21 Forced Migration & Displacement Giving Project <https://socialjusticefund.org/giving-project/forced-migration-displacement-2020-2021/>
 - Seattle Foundation grants \$555,000 to help protect the rights and resilience of vulnerable residents in King County. <https://www.seattlefoundation.org/Blog/Articles/2021/01/2020-resilience-fund-grants-include-focus-on-black-led-organizations>
- Retreat recap
 - Discussion about the Community Agreement/Commitment
 - Reminder of the voting process

Commission priorities discussion and vote

Commissioners voted on the following topics of priorities for next year:

- COVID vaccine testing, vaccine, and healthcare access – Yes
- COVID economic relief and recovery - Yes
- Post-census advocacy - Yes
- Immigration reform – Yes

Commission organizational structure review

Everyone participates on one of two COVID sub-committees, and then folks can share leadership roles for moving Census and Immigration reform.

- COVID vaccine testing, vaccine, and healthcare access – Maria, Karina (other commissioners will decide later)

- COVID economic relief and recovery – Ankita, Amanda, Shelani (other commissioners will decide later)

Co-chair voting

Shelani and Gina are voted as the 2021 Co-chairs.

Letter from the LGBTQ and Human Rights Commissions

The commission will discuss whether or not to support the letter in a later time.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned and went into executive session at 8:00 pm