**Minutes**

**Special Meeting of the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

Minutes Date: February 4, 2021 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

1. **Call Meeting to Order – Acting Chair Refaei**

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

1. **Statement of Purpose –** Chair Refaei
2. **Land Acknowledgment –** Vice Chair Refaei
3. **Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences –** Chair Mok

**Present:** Jefferson Mok (Chair), Saiyare Refaei, (Vice-Chair), Rafael Saucedo, Patricia Flores, Alma Vargas, Diana Parra, Emily Calhoun, Hieu Nguyen, Perla Gamboa, Sandra Sych

**Absent:** Rime Oujdi

**City Staff Present:** Nick Bayard, Samantha Kaauamo, Interim Police Chief Mike Ake, Lt. Gretchen Aguirre, Wendy Haddow

**Guests Present:**  Dr. Anthony Chen and Jax Hermer from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD)

1. **Consent on Agenda – Acting Chair Refaei**
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Acting Chair Refaei motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and the agenda was approved.
3. Approval of the December 9 and 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Parra motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.
4. **Commission Affairs – Chair & Vice Chair** 
   1. **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department AND**
   2. **Health and Human Rights Issues at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC)**Commissioners Nguyen, Parra, Mok along with guests from La Resistencia, Leah Montange and Tim Warden-Hentz, discussed many topics with Dr. Chen and Jax Hermer from the TPCHD. They covered: how organizations commissioners work for and volunteer with can help vaccine outreach with the Health Department, Dr. Chen shared CIRA is very important in communication with immigrant communities, what the relationship and role of a county health department has with a federal government agency, how is the COVID-19 pandemic being addressed at the Northwest Detention Center, how are detainees being kept safe and quarantined as well as NWDC staff, how are food complaints addressed, LaResistencia and TPCHD discussed a letter that was sent to Dr. Chen inquiring about living and health conditions at the NWDC
   3. **Community and Safety Updates**Interim Chief Ake shared his background and was thankful for CIRA and thier contribution to the Tacoma community. He shared he has plans to engage with CIRA during his time in this new position. Commissioner Parra welcomed Interim Chief Ake and asked if SSNs are visible when there is a person being looked up in police systems. The system referred to is the one officers use when pulling a car over and police using their police vehicle computer. Interim Chief Ake and Wendy Haddow will share what they find after confirming with staff.
   4. **Chair/Vice Chair Nomination**

Role, commitment and support of Chair and Vice Chair discussed with Commissioners and Staff Bayard. It was agreed to push the vote of these positions at the next meeting, scheduled for February 22. Commissioners Calhoun and Sych were nominated but not for a specific position.

1. **Community Affairs *\*This section was moved to the next meeting due to time contraints***

* **Community Engagement Committee**
* **Community Safety Committee**
* **Governance (of CIRA) Committee**
* **Language Access Committee**
* **NW Detention Center Committee**

1. **City Staff Updates *\*This section was moved to the next meeting due to time constraints***
2. **Public Comment:** Commissioner Parra shared information on Business Loans during the pandemic
3. **Items for next meeting:** None

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.