**Minutes**

**Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

Minutes Date: February 22, 2021 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m.

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

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

**Absent:** Rime Oujdi, Jefferson Mok

**City Staff Present:** Nick Bayard, Samantha Kaauamo, Lt. Gretchen Aguirre (TPD), Tanisha Jumper (MCO)

**Guests Present:**  Eric Alozie

1. **Consent on Agendas – Acting Chair Refaei**
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda – C. Gamboa motioned to approve the agenda. C. Sych seconded. Agenda approved.
3. Approval of the February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes – C. Sych motioned to approve the minutes. C. Gamboa seconded. Minutes approved.
4. **Commission Affairs – Chair & Vice Chair** 
   1. **Media and Communications Office: Language access plans, needs, and opportunities – Tanisha Jumper, MCO Director**

Jumper introduced her office and duties and the status of how staff are addressing language access. She explained the position she’s looking to fill (service City and TPU, website, etc.) and how it compares to outsourcing the service provided. C. Gamboa and C. Parra wanted to make sure the following were considered for applications and interviews: do not rely on Google Translate, bi-lingual does not always mean interpreter, position duties are geared toward full-time status, must be bi-literal. Tanisha thanked the commissioners and will look at attending a future Language Access Sub-Committee.

* 1. **Health and Human Rights Issues at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC): Debrief of meeting with Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department and identify next steps**C. Parra, C. Gamboa, C. Sych, C. Refaei. LaResistencia and commissioners would have liked more answers to specific concerns especially around the Northwest Detention Center and Covid concerns. Expressed better preparation for Dr. Chen for future meetings and Nick Bayard shared questions and topics were given to help with that. C. Refaei plans to write a letter to Dr. Chen covering what was discussed.
  2. **Chair/Vice Chair Nomination (continued from Feb 4th meeting)**

C. Sych accepted nomination for position of Vice Chair. C. Flores motioned for a vote of C. Sych to the Vice Chair role. C. Parra seconded. Motion approved.

1. **Community Affairs**

* **Community Engagement Committee**
  + C. Vargas: welcome anyone to join. Considering making this move to be part of all subcommittees or join the MCO group for community outreach. Will need to look at bylaws if any formalities are needed.
* **Community Safety Committee** 
  + C. Parra: continues to work with staff, especially at TPD, to help with policies. A letter of questions is being drafted to share.
* **Governance (of CIRA) Committee** 
  + No report at this time.
* **Language Access Committee**
  + No report at this time.
* **NW Detention Center Committee** 
  + No report at this time.

1. **City Staff Updates** 
   1. Bayard: Need to address and start drafting work plan. 2 OEHR positions have been advertised and would like to have CIRA participation. C. Gamboa offered her assistance.
2. **Public Comment:** No comments offered at this time.
3. **Items for next meeting.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.