**Minutes**

**Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

Minutes Date: June 28, 2021 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m.

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

**Present:** Saiyare Refaei (Chair), Sandra Sych (Vice Chair), Lydia Zepeda, Emani Donaldson, Alma Villegas, Alma Vargas, Perla Gamboa, Patricia Flores, Rafael Saucedo

**Absent:** Emily Calhoun, Hieu Nguyen

**City Staff Present:** Nick Bayard OEHR, Samantha Kaauamo OEHR, Raeshawna Ware OEHR, Officer Muhamud Ali Tacoma Police Department

**Guests Present:**  Spanish Translator

1. **Introduction of New CIRA Staff Liaison from OEHR, Raeshawna Ware**
	1. Nick Bayard introduced Raeshawna and she provided a brief background and how it relates to CIRA’s work
2. **Group Activity – Vice Chair Sych**
	1. All present shared “What are you most proud of”.
3. **Consent on Agendas – Chair Refaei**
	1. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Commissioner Lydia Zepeda motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rafael Saucedo seconded. Agenda approved.
	2. Approval of the April 2021 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Lydia Zepeda motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Rafael Saucedo seconded. Minutes approved.
4. **Commission Affairs – Chair & Vice Chair**
	1. **Discussion and vote for full CIRA endorsement of Language Access Committee’s Language Access Guidance Document**The Language Access Committee created the document and has received comments and questions from fellow CIRA Commissioners. This input has been incorporated into the document and will be presented at a future meeting of the Council’s CVS Committee. The presentation will focus on best practices and guidance for the City Language Access Policy.
	Commissioner Lydia Zepeda motioned to approve the document. Vice Chair Sych seconded. Document approved.
	2. **Welcoming Week Planning Kickoff Discussion**Nick Bayard shared the background of the joint nationwide celebration, how CIRA has been involved and budget determination. CIRA needs to decide if and how they would like to participate this year. Chair Refaei, Vice Chair Sych, Commissioners Saucedo, Gamboa, Vargas, Zepeda asked and shared comments around proposal of activities in July meeting, documentation for previous years’ CIRA involvement, participation in the past was voluntary and a big commitment especially with in-person activities, CIRA has created flyers for community partners to post their events as a central communication, can the City be a sponsor, earlier planning, no token events and elevate NWDC and safety issues.
	Next step to form a planning group. 2-3 sessions of focused and relevant topics such as safety of immigrants, displacement, Northwest Detention Center and Covid-19 concerns. Chair Refaei, Vice Chair Sych, and Commissioners Zepeda, Villegas, Saucedo volunteered to help in planning.
	Commissioner Rafael Saucedo motioned to approve the formation of a Week of Welcome planning group. Vice Chair Sych seconded. Formation of planning group approved.
	3. **Discussion and vote on CIRA Annual Report and Work Plan**Commissioner Rafael Saucedo motioned to approve the documents. Commissioner Gamboa seconded. Documents approved.
	4. **Committee Updates**
		1. **Discussion on Community Engagement Committee**Remove this item from future agendas
		2. **Community Safety Committee**Items discussed at last meeting: goals, request for hate crime updates, TPD services, need community input on how safety is viewed, host event for Week of Welcome, effects of lifted moratorium, community groups hesitant of vaccine and outreach efforts needed, Stingray phone surveillance and targeted groups. Chair Refaei and Commissioner Zepeda shared that the community budget may have asked similar questions of interest, identity of this committee as not just safety in policing but also overall safety including health, more members are welcome to join but be sure no quorum of full CIRA, contact Samantha Kaauamo for meeting invite.
		3. **Governance (of CIRA) Committee**Focused on work plan and would like to do more commissioner team building.
		4. **Language Access Committee**The document has been the big focus and that is now moving forward to staff and Council. Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month at noon.
		5. **NW Detention Center Committee**Increase of Covid-19 cases and transfers at the NWDC. There’s been a report of a water drain backing up. There has been pressure for Department of Corrections contracts to stop holding transfers. GEO Group tried to extend their contract before the House Bill passed, but now a lawsuit. Digital incarceration for those not in detention centers.
5. **City Staff Updates**
	1. Pierce County portal is now open for rental assistance.
	2. OEHR has hired the coordinator for community and reconciliation work with TPD. There will be a future ask of commissions to participate after community roles have been defined.
6. **Public Comment:** No comments.
7. **Items for next meeting.** Welcoming Week decisions, budget request ideas

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.