



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Lisa Woods, Interim Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Human Rights
COPY: Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee; Linda Stewart, Ted Richardson
PRESENTER: Nick Bayard, Assistant Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Human Rights
Saiyare Refaei, Chair, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA)
Sandra Sych, Vice Chair, CIRA
SUBJECT: Overview of CIRA Work and Goals
DATE: April 8, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational briefing

SUMMARY:

The executive staff liaison to CIRA recommends creating this opportunity for CVS Committee members to hear from—and interface with—CIRA leadership so that CVS Committee members can be updated on CIRA’s general areas of focus prior to interviews of CIRA candidates.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution 39892 established CIRA in December of 2017 to “work with community partners, City departments, and within the City’s Equity and Empowerment framework to identify and advance positive outcomes for members of refugee and immigrant communities related to access to and participation in Tacoma’s economic, cultural and civic life and to employment, economic development, public health, student achievement, citizenship, public safety, criminal justice, civic engagement, language access, and protection of civil rights.”

CIRA has primarily focused on bodies of work that are reflected by its subcommittee composition: Language Access, Community Engagement, issues related to the Northwest ICE Processing Center, Community Safety, and CIRA Governance.

Chair Refaei and Vice Chair Sych are the newly elected leadership of CIRA and leading the process to develop the CIRA Annual Report, which will be presented to CVS at a later date.

ISSUE:

This presentation will provide some background information for CVS Committee members and the opportunity to ask general questions of CIRA leadership prior to the interviews of CIRA candidates.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.