



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

April 08, 2021

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker,
Chris Beale, John Hines, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0340](#) Overview of Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Work and Goals
[Nick Bayard, Assistant Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Human Rights;
Saiyare Refaei, Chair, and Sandra Sych, Vice Chair, Commission on Immigrant and
Refugee Affairs]

At approximately 4:32 p.m., Nick Bayard, Assistant Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Human Rights, introduced Saiyare Refaei, Chair, and Sandra Sych, Vice Chair, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA). Together, they presented an overview of CIRA's work and goals, including background; the composition of CIRA; feedback regarding outreach and recruitment for the Commission; fostering diversity in ethnic and cultural and political backgrounds, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and identified other organizations the Commission is working with.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach and recruitment, staff support, and language access.

2. [21-0341](#) Interviews for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:55 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, informed the Committee they will be interviewing five applicants for CIRA, including Hieu Nguyen, who is seeking reappointment. She further stated that there are five positions available on the Commission, including two member positions with three-year terms, two member positions with unexpired terms, and one alternate position.

The Committee interviewed Hieu Nguyen, Emani Donaldson, Alma Villegas, and Lydia Zepeda.

Ms. Sorum stated Hezekiah Uba Orji was unable to attend.

Discussion ensued regarding recruitment, the requirement of being an immigrant or refugee to serve on the Commission and the limitations of requesting that information on the application, immigrant or refugee status of current members, and applicants' qualifications.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to recommend the reappointment of Hieu Nguyen to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to serve a three-year term, retroactive to April 1, 2021, to expire March 31, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to recommend the appointment of Emani Donaldson to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to serve a three-year term, retroactive to April 1, 2021, to expire March 31, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to recommend the appointment of Alma Villegas to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to fill an unexpired term to expire March 31, 2023.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to recommend the appointment of Lydia Zepeda to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to fill an unexpired term to expire March 31, 2023.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0342](#) April 22, 2021 - The Strategic Alliance to End Domestic Violence Update; Body Worn Camera Update

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on April 22, 2021, and will include presentations on the Strategic Alliance to End Family Violence and body worn cameras.

Other Items of Interest

This item was not addressed.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Catherine Ushka, Chair

Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office