Office of Equity and Social Justice
King County Executive Office
Immigrant and Refugee Commission

King County Immigrant & Commission Meeting 7/17/2019

Date: Wed, July 17, 2019

Location: King County Library, Renton Branch – 100 Mill Ave S, Renton WA 98057

Participants:
Immigrant & Refugee Commissioners; King County Office of Equity and Social Justice Staff;
King County Executive’s Office Staff; Community Members representing – government agencies, privacy
industry, education sector, nonprofit sector and labor

Agenda:
5:00 PM | Welcome and Public Comment
5:10 PM | Review Agenda and Approve Meeting Minutes
5:20 PM | IRC’s Response to Urgent Issues Affecting Immigrants and Refugees
5:50 PM | Protecting King County Data on Citizenship and Immigration Status
6:50 PM | Housekeeping
7:20 PM | IRC Strategic Plan
7:55 PM | Closing and Next Steps
8:00 PM | Adjourn

Action Items:
- Accept meeting meetings for June 2019
- Identify a standard process as well as spokespeople authorized to issue statements on behalf of IRC
- Understand DAJD audit findings, County’s response and next steps for IRC on this issue
- Identify next steps related to filling Board position vacated by Mr. Ngueita
- Clarify expectations and identify support needs related to subcommittee work
- Identify next steps related to developing a clear strategic plan for IRC

Welcome and Public Comment 5:00PM – 5:10PM

Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners in Attendance:
Nimco Bulale, Fo-Ching Lu, Monserrat Padilla, Issa Ndiaye, Hamdi Mohamed, Lalita Uppala,
Mohammad Bakr, Andrew Kritovich, Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo, Minal Kode Ghassemieh
(phone)

Absent Commissioners: Mohammad Jan Ofuq, Senayet Negusse
Other Attendees:
- Hannelore Makhani, Matias Valenzuela and Damarys Espinoza, King County Equity and Social Justice Office
- John Diaz, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention
- Glenn Carpenter, Office of U.S. Congressman Adam Smith
- Staff, Office of U.S. Senator Patty Murray
- Gina Aaftaab, Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
- Dr. Khalif and Dr. Yamen, International Doctors in Washington State
- Cariño Barragan, UFCW21
- Rich Stolz, OneAmerica
- Adiam Mengis and Laura Mummert, Public Health Seattle-King County
- Several other community members

Public Comment
Dr. Khalif and Dr. Yamen from International Doctors in Washington State introduced their nonprofit organization, which aims to remove barriers for doctors trained internationally to be able to practice in Washington. They shared about some recent projects/efforts and expressed an interest in returning to a future Commission meeting.

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<tr>
<th>Review Agenda and Approve Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>5:10PM – 5:20PM</th>
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<td>Approval of June Minutes</td>
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<td><strong>Approved:</strong> Motion by Ms Mohamed. Ms. Lu seconded the motion. No oppositions; motion passed. (Ms. Bulale, Ms. Ghassemieh and Mr. Duncan-Galvez Bravo were ineligible to vote)</td>
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<tr>
<th>IRC’s Response to Urgent Issues Affecting Immigrants and Refugees</th>
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<td><strong>Hannelore Makhani</strong> shared about recent Commission conversations and questions about how to respond to urgent community and immigration-related issues as they arise. She has noticed that Commissioners have inquired about their authority to issue public statements and have been frustrated by the limitation of not being able to vote on these decisions outside of open meeting settings. Ideally, the commission could have two spokespeople, to represent the commission.</td>
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| **Commission Discussion:** | |
| Commissioners discussed the possibility of empowering a couple of members as spokespeople for IRC and to decide what kinds of actions they are able to take on IRC’s behalf, knowing that only they would be authorized. Additionally, Hannelore advised that members identify and vote on a standard process that these spokespeople would follow when making statements and explained that they would need to vote to approve this process during an open meeting. The commission agreed that the spokesperson should always try to consult with the co-chairs and other commissioners that can offer expertise on certain topics. Monserrat nominated herself as a spokesperson. | |

| | |
|Given time constraints, Ms. Uppala, Ms. Lu, Mr. Duncan-Galvez Bravo, and Ms. Ghassemieh volunteered to lead a small group to draft a proposed process, including information on how to | |
appoint spokespeople, the timeline for responding and the types of responses, to present to the Commission for vote at the next meeting (Wednesday, August 21, 2019).

### Protecting King County Data on Citizenship and Immigration Status  5:50PM – 6:50PM

**Ms. Padilla** presented a quick overview King County DAJD data breach. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement accessed nonpublic information about people arrested and booked by King County agencies. In some cases, this included information on citizenship. ICE and its predecessor Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had historical access to DAJD data. Changes necessary to comply with County's immigration ordinance (Ordinance 18665) were not made spite statements to Executive Office that the changes had been made.

**Matías Valenzuela** provided context surrounding King County Ordinance 18665 and progress to date. He expressed deep apologies as, despite clarity on values, implementation efforts have fallen short.

Mr. Valenzuela stated that:
- King County does not work with ICE to support enforcement efforts
- The Office of Equity and Social Justice (OESJ) is working to reissue guidance to departments about Ordinance 18665 requirement
- OESJ is assessing the situation and gathering information on the status of implementation
- OESJ is addressing issues and providing training to King County departments

**John Diaz** explained the data security concerns at the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD), which were recently uncovered by the Auditor’s office (see FAQ document that was handed out at meeting). Stated that moving forward he wants to look over all critical policies in place and make sure that DAJD is in compliance.

Mr. Diaz expressed that this was an unacceptable mistake and went on to clarify that:
- DAJD has not given additional data access to ICE; the access had not been taken away since 2005
- DAJD Staff acted quickly and, in partnership with King County Information Technology, removed all access
- DAJD has not honored any detainers issued by ICE (unless there was a signed warrant by a judge requiring it) since 2013
- Mr. Diaz reached out to local ICE field staff, but had not heard back

**Discussion:**
Both Commissioners and the community members present had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on this issue. Some of the topics that arose included:

- Harm to individuals who were in custody during the timeframe in question
- Audit process—what led up to it and how often audits can be expected
- OESJ capacity to support Ordinance 18665 implementation and provide training, including language access requirements
- DAJD’s practices related to sharing detainer information with individuals in custody
- Training that DAJD and other County staff are provided to understand policies
- Efforts to inform those affected about the breach
• New jail (data) management system
• DAJD and other agencies’ willingness to collaborate with community stakeholders for the purposes of improvement and accountability
• The importance of informing the Commission and stakeholders sooner

Potential Next Steps:
Going forward, Commissioners expressed a strong interest in involvement with Ordinance 18665 implementation. Specific areas of interest include:

• Process improvement around harm done
• Facilitating information sharing with the community
• Establishing a County-wide grievance process
• Developing a plan/milestones for Ordinance 18665 implementation
• Formation of a task force that monitors implementation (Immigrant Rights subcommittee to take this on?)

Decisions:
1) **Ms. Padilla** motioned to ensure that “Ordinance 18665 Implementation” is a standing item on monthly Immigrant and Refugee Commission meeting agendas.
   - **Ms. Mohamed** seconded motion
   - No oppositions, motion passed

2) **Ms. Padilla** motioned to assign the “Advancing Immigrant Rights through Capacity Building” subcommittee to take on an advisory role over the implementation of Ordinance 18665, convening stakeholders to provide input.
   - **Ms. Bulale** seconded motion
   - No oppositions, motion passed

Housekeeping

Hannelore Makhani shared a couple of reminders with the Commission:

• **Medard Ngueita** was forced to step down from his seat on the Commission effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Ngueita moved his primary residence outside of King County and became ineligible to serve on the Immigrant and Refugee Commission. Recruitment to fill this position and any others that are vacated this fall (several terms set to expire), will begin shortly. Please share announcement with networks.
   - **Ms. Mohamed** expressed an interest in helping with selection of new Commissioner(s)

• Commissioners are to focus on finalizing their **subcommittee work plans**, as it is July and goals seem a bit unclear still. Please reach out to Ms. Makhani if help is needed. She is happy to sit with subcommittee chairs/ members to get this done.
**IRC Strategic Plan**  
7:20PM – 7:55PM

Rich Stolz from OneAmerica attended the meeting at the request of co-chairs. He encouraged Commissioners to think about drafting a strategic work plan and offered to help. He suggested focusing on items that would have major impact and to identify something that could be supported by the entire Commission, to build team cohesiveness and to leverage assets, tools and resources.

Among other things, Mr. Stolz encouraged Commissioners to engage in a relationship/power mapping process and to thing about their role in stakeholder engagement, including communications and, also, related to appointing ex-officio members (philanthropy, business, local government, etc) to the Commission, and how to utilize the Office of Equity and Social Justice.

Ms. Bulale and Ms. Ghassemieh volunteered to schedule and plan a strategic planning session to continue this conversation.

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**Closing and Next Steps**  
7:55PM – 8:12PM

- Ms. Uppala, Ms. Ghassemieh, Mr. Duncan-Galvez Bravo, and Ms. Lu to draft a communications procedure for IRC
- Ms. Bulale and Ms. Ghassemieh to ensure that “Ordinance 18665 Implementation” is included as standing agenda item for future Commission meetings
- Ms. Mohamed and Ms. Lu (EEDAS subcommittee chairs) and Ms. Ghassemieh and Ms. Uppala (AIRTCB subcommittee chairs) to finalize subcommittee plans
- Ms. Bulale and Ms. Ghassemieh to schedule and plan a strategic planning session in August

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.