KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMISSION

February 2021

PREPARED BY:
FO-CHING LU, CO-CHAIR, 2019-2020
LALITA UPPALA, CO-CHAIR, 2019-2021
HAMDI MOHAMED, POLICY ADVISOR

King County
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Vision

Our vision is for King county to be a place where everyone has equitable access to opportunities. To achieve this vision, the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC) plays a significant role in engaging immigrant and refugee communities to establish long-lasting trust-based relationships with County offices and programs. KCIRC strives to leverage existing programs and funding, while advocating for increased dedicated resources necessary to ensure immigrant and refugee communities thrive.

Mission

KCIRC will focus on understanding and addressing challenges facing immigrants and refugees within the diverse communities that make up King County. The Commission will work as a hub and central connecting place for building direct relationships with and supporting the vision for social justice for immigrant and refugee communities in King County. The Commission will enhance the integration of refugees and immigrants culturally, economically, and civically, in order to strengthen the communities where they live and will support refugees and immigrants to thrive and succeed while maintaining their own identities.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Held public meetings in every county district and unincorporated King County.

• Operated King County Immigrant & Refugee Commission Facebook page that is independently managed by commissioners with nearly 1000 followers and over 600 likes. The page provides up-to-date late breaking information and resources for immigrants and refugees communities across King County.

• Organized and hosted a series of public charge and COVID-19 information sessions with over 2,000 participants. Videos of the information sessions are available on the Commission Facebook page for community members to reference as needed.

• Issued statements on pressing issues impacting immigrants and refugees.

• Held meetings with County councilmembers and the County Executive to advise on the resource needs of immigrant and refugee community.

• Facilitated meetings to address the King County immigrant and refugee ordinance, K.C.C. 2.15.

• Submitted a letter to county leaders requesting $10 million for language access and COVID-19 relief benefits for the immigrant community, particularly for those communities left out of the federal stimulus package.
• Hosted a public education session on the county budget with special guest Dwight Dively, King County Budget Director.

• Hosted a public information session with King County Public Health to advocate health access for all.

• Commission members have served on county advisory groups and committees and advised county departments, such as the Seattle-King County Public Health Covid-19 response team (Community mitigation & recovery group taskforces).

• Commission members participated on the advisory committee for the COVID-19 community response fund of $3 million through the Office of Equity and Social Justice.

• Commission members participated in the creation of public health announcement videos in multiple languages.
ADVOCACY

Meeting with Executive Dow Constantine, King County Executive to discuss KCIRC’s work on key issue areas such as community safety and protection, health equity, small business displacement, and other 2020 priorities.

[KCIRC commissioners pictured from left to right: Lalita Uppala, Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo, Fo-Ching Lu, Andrew Kritovich]

Standing in solidarity with DACA recipients and immigrant families. #HomeIsHere
Holding public meetings (pre-COVID) in various county districts to hear from community and share relevant information of great concern to the well-being of immigrant and refugee communities.
Events

PUBLIC CHARGE COVID-19 INFORMATION SESSION

Discuss the latest updates on public charge and health services access in the region. We will hear from immigration attorneys and health care experts.

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM
OCTOBER 14TH, 2020

WWW.ZOOM.US/JOIN
MEETING ID: 863-6907-7810
JOIN BY PHONE: 1-253-215-8782

Hamdi.Mohamed@KingCounty.gov

SOUTH KING COUNTY CENSUS DAY FOR ACTION

FREE CENSUS ASSISTANCE
FREE FRESH PRODUCE BOXES
FREE PERSONAL CARE GIFT BAGS

09/30/2020
12 PM - 2 PM
24604 104TH AVE SE
KENT WA 98030

For any questions, please email
Hamdi.Mohamed@KingCounty.gov

ETHNIC MEDIA ROUNDTABLE AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: PANDEMIC SUPPORT & PUBLIC CHARGE

Get your questions answered about new programs and benefits in place to help support families through the public health crisis. Find out what's available, who is eligible, and whether “public charge” applies.

DATE: August 19, 2020
TIME: 5:30 – 7 pm
WHERE: ONLINE, Zoom https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/9699981165
and FB Live at https://www.facebook.com/KingCountyRC4/

Phone, One tap mobile: +12532158782, 9699981165# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location
• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
• Meeting ID: 969 9998 1165
Join by Skype for Business
https://kingcounty.zoom.us/skype/9699981165

Calling all Ethnic Media Outlets and community members!!!

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning about available COVID-19 benefits and their public charge implications, this event is for YOU!!

BLACK LIVES MATTER:

Black/Immigrants and Refugees Solidarity Rally
JULY 25TH, 2020
1PM - 5PM
LOCATION: TUKWILA VILLAGE
14350 INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD, TUKWILA

Sponsored by City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, One America Youth Council, One America Grassroots Leadership Council, King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission, City of Seattle Council President Lorena Gonzalez

#BLACKLIVESMATTER
FREE COVID-19 TESTING & SUPPLIES

Protect yourself. Protect your family. Protect your community.

Ms. Tina Knowles-Lawson’s #DoMyPart initiative is partnering with King County local health organizations to make free drive-through COVID-19 testing available for anyone who has symptoms or has been exposed to the virus, regardless of their immigration status. #DOMYPART

Community care packages, drinks, and toiletries will be distributed for free at the event. Supplies are limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH
11 AM TO 5 PM
HEALTHPOINT RENTON
555 POWELL AVE SW
RENTON, WA 98057

SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH
11 AM TO 5 PM
SEA WARD MEDICAL CLINIC
31420 5TH AVE NW
FEDERAL WAY, WA 98032

The sample form can be found on this website: https://idimypartkingcounty.com
Registration forms will be completed onsite. Forms will be available in multiple languages.

To find other free testing locations that are open for anyone, visit kingcounty.gov/vaccines/testing or call the King County COVID-19 Help Desk at (206) 471-3000. Ask for the name of your language if you need an interpreter.

For any other questions, please email healthfocus@kingcounty.gov or immigranthealthfocus@kingcounty.gov

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY:

CoronaVirus
COVID-19

Arabic Community
Briefing

King County

KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT
AND REFUGEE COMMISSION

PUBLIC CHARGE AND
COVID-19 WEBINAR

DISCUSS THE IMPACT ON IMMIGRANTS ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. WE WILL HEAR FROM IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS AND HEALTH CARE EXPERTS.

APRIL 29, 2020
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WWW.ZOOM.US/JOIN
MEETING ID: 933-170-78076 | PASSWORD: 206
JOIN BY PHONE: 1-346-448-7799
MEETING ID: 933-170-78076 | PASSWORD: 206

If you have any questions or require accommodation, please contact:
hrad.refugee@kingcounty.gov
Statements

King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC) Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Police Accountability Pledge. The KCIRC believes the widespread demonstrations calling for racial justice have raised long-standing concerns over systemic inequities and police violence in the United States.

King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC) Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Police Accountability Pledge

- The KCIRC believes the widespread demonstrations calling for racial justice have raised long-standing concerns over systemic inequities and police violence in the United States.
- The KCIRC believes that all lives cannot matter until Black lives matter.
- As part of our commitment to the BLM movement, the KCIRC will center Black voices as it works with leaders in the Black community on how to best support and make systemic change.
- The KCIRC stands with and fully supports King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay’s efforts in calling on every elected official to join him in taking the #ElectedsForJustice Pledge, a 5-part plan to create and strengthen police accountability and investments in local communities.
- We join King County Councilmember Girmay Zahilay’s efforts and call upon city, county and state leaders, and our federal delegation to support policies that:
  1. De-militarize the police.
  2. Further restrict the use of excessive force and deadly force by police.
  3. Increase accountability and transparency in police union contracts.
  4. Give subpoena and other investigative powers to independent oversight boards.
  5. Redirect police department funding to community-based alternatives.
- The KCIRC believes that there has never been a more important moment for elected officials to demonstrate a real and sustained commitment to the BLM movement by combating police violence.
- The KCIRC is calling on all local elected officials to take immediate action and sign Councilmember Zahilay’s pledge, because it is our collective responsibility to protect our Black community members by advancing police reform and accountability.

Sign the #ElectedsForJustice Pledge here:
https://fusewashington.actionkit.com/letter/ElectedsForJusticePledge_state/?source=fusehome
KCIRC along with several community leaders have issued this joint statement in the wake of the coronavirus. We urge everyone to promote accurate information and use proper preventative measures to stay healthy. Do NOT stigmatize people based on race or national origin, and SPEAK UP against bias and harassment.
The Immigrant and Refugee Commission is Recruiting!

We are seeking applications from King County residents to fill three seats on the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission. Commissioners from across King County work together to identify, elevate and develop shared strategies and solutions; streamline and strengthen efforts; and bring more resources to the most pressing issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities. It is important that applicants:

• Are immersed in one or more immigrant/refugee communities and represent immigrant-led and/or faith-based organizations, when possible;
• Have had personal experiences as immigrants, refugees or asylees;
• Reflect the racial, ethnic, religious/spiritual, professional, socioeconomic, gender, sexual orientation, age and geographic diversity of King County communities; and
• Are well-versed on the issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities locally as well as nationally.

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

Additional information and all required materials are listed below:
KING COUNTY IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMISSION

BECOME A COMMISSIONER

Apply online at www. kingcounty.gov/kcircomission

We are seeking residents interested in serving on the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission. Commissioners from across King County work together to identify, elevate and develop shared strategies and solutions; and bring more resources to the most pressing issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities.

If you have any questions, please email us at kcirccommission@kingcounty.gov