

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Monday, March 11, 2019 5:30pm
Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present: Arega, Alula; Camara, Chukwu Fumnanya; Erazo, Marlon;
Jimenez, Christian; Kemer, Sabe; Muhumed, Abukar; Resaalam, Julie;
Skelley, Linda; Vargas, Kevin; Zvejnieks, Jackie

Commissioners Excused: None

Commissioners Absent: None

Other present: Chad Argentar

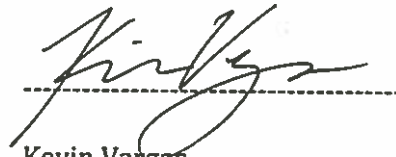
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Commissioner Resaalam and Commissioner Kemer.
2. Chad Argentar, Planning Department, made a presentation on the Annual Business Recognition Award. The event has been sponsored by the City Manager since its beginning and Planning Department has been working with OIIA, Communications and other city departments in expending outreach efforts to ensure that applicants represent the diversity of the city. AIRC members made several suggestions how to improve the outreach and marketing toward the local immigrant and refugee business community.
3. Former AIRC Co-Chair Jeanette Rodriguez shared some key facts and information about the AIRC efforts and projects developed by AIRC past couple of years. She offered some important advice regarding communications with city staff and council members.
4. AIRC had a candid conversation about the role and mission of AIRC. Members agreed to review AIRC mission, goals and by-laws in the April meeting.
5. AIRC members selected unanimously Commissioner Resaalam as a Chair and Commissioner Vargas as Co-Chair for the period 2019 – 2020.
6. AIRC members had a conversation about the “ThankYouAmerica” event, everyone agreed to postpone the event until the fall in order to ensure a good planning event for this year. OIIA staff agreed to support this joint event later in the year.
7. OIIA staff shared key updates about current plans regarding the development of the next immigrant integration plan, including details about the community outreach efforts, consultants, timeline and key areas and topics to be included after a very robust community outreach effort planned for this important city initiative. OIIA staff highlight the key role that AIRC will play in the development and implementation of the new comprehensive strategic plan that will guide the city for the next five years.

8. After a positive and productive exchange of ideas, AIRC commissioners agreed to focus exclusively on the important pending items in the April meeting.
9. Adjourn
Commissioner Jimenez adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.



Juie Resaalam,
Chair



Kevin Vargas,
Vice-Chair