Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Monday, June 10, 2019 5:30pm Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room 15151 E. Alameda Parkway Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present:

Alula Arega; Jackie Zvejnieks; Julie Ressalam; Linda Skelley;

Marlon Erazo; Sabe Kemer

Commissioners Excused:

Abukar Muhumed; Kevin Vargas; Chuku Fumnanya

Commissioners Absent:

Christian Jimenez

Other present:

None

Staff Present:

Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:43pm by Chair Ressalam.

2. Introductions & member update

Chair Ressalam attended community campus partnership and proposed the AIRC to host Community Campus Partnership meeting.

Chair Ressalam received the Immigrant Heritage Month proclamation on behalf of the AIRC. Chair Ressalam suggested to work on building resources to share with community.

Commissioner Skelley attended Denver Census' Immigrant Refugee sub-committee and the citizenship question will be concluded during month of June.

Commissioner Kemer attended Rocky Mountain Welcome Center's panel presentation on "Refugees & Asylum Seekers in Colorado"

Commissioner Arega attended conference coordinated by Toward Justice regarding victim of wage theft and wage dispute and proposed to invite them to educate the AIRC members.

3. OllA Update

Mr. Gambetta shared Aurora Census Total Count Committee update. There will be Immigrant Refugee Sub-committee and city is looking for the Leadership for sub-Committee. Aurora Census Total Count Committee will launch on July 15.

OIIA is one of the main sponsor of World Refugee Day on Thursday, June 20.

Small Business Seminar for local Korean Community will be held on Thursday, June 27 and similar seminars will be offered for other community throughout this year.

4. New member interview session

Commissioner Kemer suggested inviting previous applicants to some of AIRC & O11A events.

Chair Ressalam proposed to keep the applicants for future openings.

AIRC members interviewed Mr. Marcus Doe, Ms. Mercy Ehizuelen, Ms. Miere Mbuyi, and Ms. Naquetta Ricks.

Mr. Marcus Doe was selected as new Commission Member by the AIRC

5. AIRC Work plan

Chair Ressalam suggested to work collectively through google document by next meeting.

Chair Ressalam emphasized the importance of participating focus group for new Immigrant Integration plan and AIRC members agreed to use existing meeting for focus group session.

6. Adjourn Chair Ressalam adjoined the meeting at 7:57pm.

Julie Ressalam,

Chair

Kevin Vargas,

Vice-Chair