

Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Monday, September 9, 2019 5:30pm
Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present: Abukar Muhumed; Alula Arega; Christian Jimenez;
Jackie Zvejnieks; Julie Ressalam; Kevin Vargas;
Linda Skelley; Marlon Erazo; Sabe Kemer
Commissioners Excused: Chukwu Fumnanya Camara; Marcus Doe
Commissioners Absent: Christian Jimenez; Marlon Erazo
Other present: Alejandra Ospina, Patricia Mason, Jan Jenkins,
Francis Cheung and "Aurora Together"
Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta and Minsoo Song

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:39pm by Chair Ressalam.
2. OIIA Updates
 - Community Outreach plan for New Immigrant Integration Plan
 - AIRC Annual Report @PRCTLBCCG Policy committee (9/17, 4pm, Mt. Elbert)
3. Emergency Preparedness Discussion by Patricia Mason
 - City of Aurora is updating Emergency Operation Plan
 - City uses Ever Bridge System (reverse 911 system) and it only reach to signed up users
 - City uses Next Door to share information.
 - Commissioner Vargas asked what other avenues that city has used to reach out to immigrant & refugee community and Ms. Mason emphasize the importance of partnering AIRC to reach immigrant & refugee community.
 - Ms. Jenkins recommended to connect with Emergency response team from AMH.
 - Translated flyers and poster will be very effective and OIIA proposed to provide Language Assistance as needed.
4. "Aurora Together": a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to identify the decreased employment inequity. Colorado Refugee Wellness Center is the grant managing agency and has been closely working with diverse community. The center identified 8 refugee communities and its leaders for this grant.
 - 3 main areas has been identified
 1. Education
 2. Language barrier
 3. Work place policy, procedures & process, work place cultural difference
 - R. Gambetta asked if the group is planning to provide specific policy recommendations and Ms. J. Jenkins answered the grant purpose if to address public disparity.
 - Commissioner Arega suggested to propose some policy recommendations to federal level.
 - "Aurora Together" group requested to appoint a representative from AIRC to work with community leaders.

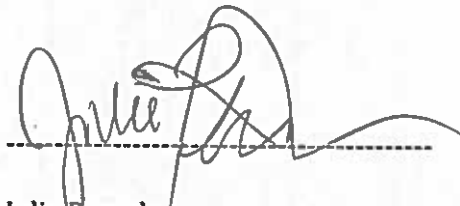
5. Member update

- Commissioner Skelley along with Chair Ressalam and Vice Chair Vargas presented POD Act policy recommendation at Council Study Session
- Commissioner Zvejnieks attended Job Fair organized by Congressman Crow's office and Vice Chair Vargas will share more information on future events
- Vice Chair Vargas suggested to raise any business issues to your representatives and contact your representative regarding any pending issues
- Commissioner Arega invited the AIRC to Ethiopian Day @ Bicentennial Park on September 14

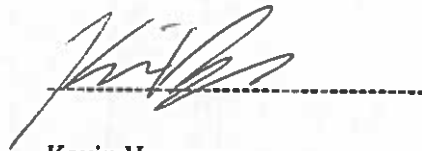
6. ThankYouAmerica

- AIRC members decided to postpone ThankYouAmerica Campaign to 2020.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm by Chair Ressalam.

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**Julie Ressalam,
Chair**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', written over a horizontal dashed line.

**Kevin Vargas,
Vice-Chair**