

Denver Immigrant & Refugee Commission
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
1373 Grant Street, Denver CO

Meeting Minutes

Present: Victoria Aguilar, Diana Higuera, Jennifer Gueddiche, Christina Eyre, Fran Campbell, Paulo Alvarez, Temi Osifodunrin, Pilar Castro-Reino, Nermina Mujkanovic, Florian Ezui, Nadeen Ibrahim

Guests: Lizz Mueller – Intern, Floyd Jones, Jacob Herald

Public Comment

Floyd Jones- Landlord tenant dispute law firm. Distributed handout with hotline for landlord/tenant disputes. Homeless prevention/Eviction defense. Serves multi-county area. Has been serving immigrant community and asked commission to disseminate hotline to the public. Spanish language is available. Charges \$200 consultation fee.

Updates

Several Community events- Cabinets in the Community. Event at Aurora Welcome Center and others have produced several questions: i.e homeowners asking a lot of questions about selling their homes if they are deported. Some are asking about seeking asylum in Canada. Commissioners asked to report complex issues back to Jamie and commission- a Google doc will be established.

Q&A from Place Bridge event is on HCRP website. A RESOURCE SHEET Is available on HCRP website-- please share widely.

City is responding to issues of undocumented individuals who have committed crimes (2 reported on in media to date). City is working on response. Other stories include Jeanette/ Sanctuary seeker. Trying to respond within value system of the City promoting a welcoming environment. (situation is in hands of ICE so city can no longer comment). Many rumors are being spread in the community, and it is important that communication is intentional and honest. Commissioners are asked to communicate more to dispel rumors and ensure correct information is being shared at the community level.

City code violations are being discussed in terms of how they impact notification of federal authorities. Leslie Herod is taking up in legislature.

City is also discussing policies impacting immigrants and refugees in light of national sanctuary city conversation. There are many limitations and pitfalls. More to come, nothing confirmed yet.

Language Access update

A survey is in final stages, but will be disseminated more widely across the City. All city departments and personnel will be surveyed for language access.

Citizenship

July naturalization ceremony being planned, as well as during Welcoming week in September which may include other events including Stories of integration event and other activities.

2017 Goals updates

Diversity awards-- Theme discussion

Top three: Unsung Heroes

 Welcome!- Commitment to creating a Welcoming Community

 Building bridges, not walls

Will be taken back to larger committee for decision.

Mini Grants Update

Deadline is March 10

Victoria did a spot on Telemundo to disseminate the announcement. Budget is doubled-- \$20K-- so we will fund 10 continuing projects, and 10 new projects.

Refugee event

Volunteers:

Victoria, Diana and Fran- Questions collection and choice of questions at event.

Liz will help with food

Advisory Board

Commission partnership day in late April-- will be looking at intersectionality of commissions and how we can work together to discuss common issues and solutions.

Announcements

Congratulations to Jamie for being named "Forty under Forty" by the Denver Business Journal

Action Items:

Jennifer and Victoria will research using Basecamp as a platform to share more information.

Cabinet in Community on Saturday- SW Denver. Fran and Pilar attending