



Hamilton

Minutes

IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2020

6:30pm-8:30pm

Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Present: Dina Honig, Aref Alshaikhahmed, Rami Safi, Leslyn Gombakomba, Grace Maciak, Councillor Maureen Wilson,

Also Present: Cole Gately, Staff Liaison, Diversity & Inclusion, Office
Taline Morris, Admin Assistant, Diversity & Inclusion
Nabila Arkbary, Admin Assistant, Diversity & Inclusion

Regrets: n/a

Chair: Rami Safi (Vice Chair)

Welcome and Introductions

A round of welcome and introductions from R. Safi

CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

A. Alshaikhahmed gave a land acknowledgement

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(A. Alshaikhahmed / D. Honig)

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves the Agenda for December 10, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

N/A

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

R. Safi/ D. Honig)

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves that Minutes of March 12, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

3. COMMUNICATIONS

R. Safi –Will share a copy of the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) strategic action direction for the next 5 year once received. R. Safi to invite member of HIPC to present to I&R

- Committee Members inquired about the recruitment up to 5 new committee members. Staff to advise Legislative coordinators office that the the Immigrant and Refugee Committee is interested in recruitment

(R.Safi/A. Alshaikhahmed)

MOTION:That the immigrant and refugee committee requests that the City of Hamilton recruit at up to 5 new members to join the immigrant and refugee advisory committee

CARRIED

- Discussion took place amongst committee members regarding the difference between services provided by the Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committees versus other community organizations and how to bridge the gap in services, who I&R reports to and the terms of reference
- Also discussed other ways of reaching out to immigrants and refugees during pandemic. R. Safi shared that he created 8 videos in Arabic for newcomers on topics like medication coverage. Videos were released via youtube. Link to be dissiminated
- Councilor Wilson provided feedback that, under the conditions of COVID, the City of Hamilton had to make decisions quick decisions around the best ways to distribute information to the community and are unsure how the information is being received. Suggested members of I&R could provide feedback to council regarding the distribution of information in the immigrant and refugee communities
- Committee members shared concerns over reaching out to members of the immigrant and refugee commitees that do not have access to technology. Culture, school, health, language, employment are important element for immigrants and informational videos in various languages identified as most effective ways to communicate these information.
- Staff advised that suggestions to serve a specific need, can be submitted to to council using a citizen committee report.
- G. Maciak also suggested I&R can try collaborating with different community organizations to help spread information and provided services within the immigrant and refugee communities.
- Members discussed possibly approaching HIPC for assistance doing research in the immigrant communitis to capture needs/gaps in services in hopes of creating a citizens committee report

- A. Alshaikhahmed suggested I&R investigate adding a portal/link on City of Hamilton website that contains information for immigrants

4. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- There was a previous internal delegation request. Subject to new internal process. Staff to inquire about new delegation process and report back to next meeting

5. CONSENT ITEMS

N/A

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS

N/A

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

N/A

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Member Resignation

(R. Safi/D. Honig)

MOTION: That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves and acknowledges deemed resignation of AL Karsten, effective today, December 10, 2020.

CARRIED

8.2 Information sharing

- Committee members had a lot of questions regarding permissions and guidelines relating to information sharing as a member of I&R. Staff suggested members send questions via email and staff will compile a list to be sent to the office of the clerks for clarification.

8.3 Update to Volunteer Handbook

- Staff to disseminated updated copy of procedural handbook and terms of reference to committee members

9. MOTIONS

N/A

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

N/A

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14 , 2021

