



# Hamilton

## **Minutes**

### **IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

February 11, 2021

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>

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**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  
Sarah Wayland - Senior Project Manager, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC)  
Mohammas Araf,- Program Officer, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC)  
Rashad Al-Aaini - Communications Associate, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC)

**Chair:** Rami Safi (Chair)

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

A round of welcome and introductions from R. Safi

#### **2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

A. Alshaikhahmed gave a land acknowledgement

#### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(Added items, if applicable, will be noted with \*)

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

R. Safi and G. Maciak advised that they are both currently members of the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC).

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(R. Safi/ D. Honig)**

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves that Minutes of February 11, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9.1)**

Sarah Wayland, Araf Mohammad and Rashad Al-Aiani Presented to the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees, on the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) and the support available to newcomers to the city of Hamilton, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. Araf Mohammad spoke specifically about the economic impact of Immigration to the City of Hamilton as 2/3rds of the Hamilton population growth comes from immigration. Rashad Al-Aiani reported that the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is a community table that brings together leaders from various sectors to facilitate a seamless settlement experience for newcomers. Founded in 2009, HIPC is apart of the Planning and Economic Development department at the City of Hamilton. Some programs that they support include newcomer day and the essential immigrants video series. The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) also does research on immigration which can be found on their website. Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) is currently recruiting new members and applications are open until February 19, 2021. Question and Answer period followed the presentation.

**(R. Sami/ A. Alshaikhahmed)**

That the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees receive the presentation from the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council.

**CARRIED**

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**i. Terms of Reference(item 10.1)**

Was previously disseminated as requested.

**ii. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair Item (Item 10.2)**

D. Honig nominated R. Safi as Chair of the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees. No other nominations were put forth. R. Safi accepted the nomination. R.Safi elected Chair of the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees for the 2021 term, uncontested.

R. Safi nominated D. Honig as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and refugees. D. Honig nominated A. Alshaikhahmed Vice-Chair. No other nominations were put forth. A. Alshaikhahmed declined nomination for Vice-Chair. D.

Honig accepted the nomination for Vice- Chair. D. Honig elected Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee Immigrants and Refugees for the 2021 term, uncontested.

### **Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Item 10.3)**

#### **i. Delegation Requests**

Staff reviewed the process for internal delegations as committee members has more questions regarding the correspondence from the clerk's office respecting citizen committee reports that was reviewed last meeting. Staff advised that for all internal delegation requests, a citizen committee report would be required to provide the standing committee with more information about the reasons for the request. Committee members inquired if this would pertain all to verbal and written delegations or just to official statements put out by the Advisory Committee. Committee members advised that this information is conflicting as the meetings are open to all members of the public. Staff also reviewed appendix 10 of the Volunteer Advisory Committee Procedural Handbook which confirmed the process for communications from committees to outside agencies.

#### **ii. General Discussion**

Committee Members further discussed the importance of upholding the Land Acknowledgment by learning more about the Indigenous cultures and exploring areas of collaboration. There was also discussions on whether this fits within the committee mandate. Members still interested in a presentation from the Urban Indigenous Strategy about current initiatives in the City of Hamilton, however, committee members discussed if it would be more beneficial to first decide on the questions they would like answered. Presentation currently booked for March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **iii. All Advisory Committee Event**

Staff advised members of the Advisory committee for Immigrants and Refugees committee that an all advisory committee event is being planned by the Clerk's office. Committee members expressed interest in this event and are curious what challenges other committees maybe facing with the immigrant populations they serve. Member's expressed this would be a great option for collaboration.

#### **iv. Member Recruitment**

The members of the Immigrant and Refugee Committee requested an update on previous request to add new members to the committee. Staff advised request was sent to the clerks office and updates will be provided once received.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

That the Meeting for the Immigrant and Refugee Committee be adjourned at 8:25pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11 , 2021