



Hamilton

**Minutes
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 8, 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>

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

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

Absent with Regrets : Leslyn Gombakomba

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

R. Safi provided a round of welcome and introductions.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)

A. Alshaikhahmed gave a Land Acknowledgement

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

i. Minutes of March 11, 2021 (Item 4.1)

(D. Honig/ A. Alshaikhahmed)

That the Immigrant and Refugee Committee approves that
Minutes of March 11, 2021 with amendments to motion
respecting the Citizen Committee Report on the Urban
Indigenous Strategy

CARRIED

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)

i. Citizen committee report respecting Urban Indigenous Strategy (Item 10.2)

Committee members reviewed and provided edits to the citizen committee report previously completed by D. Honig on behalf of the Advisory Committee for Immigrants and Refugees. The goal of the citizen committee report is to recommend that council provide education about Indigenous affairs and history to immigrant and refugee communities through the Urban Indigenous Strategy. It is being requested that The City allocate financial and human resources needed as required for the Urban Indigenous Strategy to reach out to immigrant and refugee communities. Staff to finalize report with committee's amendments to prepare for submission to the clerk's office.

ii. Mental Health support for Immigrants and Refugees (Item 10.3)

Committee members previously discussed inviting a mental health professional to present on the need for mental health support within the immigrant and refugee community. R. Safi updated the committee that he has contacted the Canadian Mental Health Association and is working on securing a presentation for either the May or June meeting.

iii. COVID -19 in Marginalized Communities (Item 10.4)

Committee members discussed effective ways to provide updates regarding COVID-19 and vaccines to the immigrant and refugee communities. Some challenges that have been identified include non-english speakers navigating the vaccine lines, non status holding immigrants being afraid of being vaccinated and deported, and committee members without Ontario Health Insurance Plan OHIP getting access to vaccinations. R. Safi to clarify approach to City's approach to address above concerns.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION/ OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)

Committee members discussed creating workplan for 2021, specifically, investigating how community agencies are

currently supporting immigrants and refugees. A. Alshaikhahmed to create draft workplan for on behalf of the committee to be reviewed at the next meeting.

(A. Alshaikhahmed/D. Honig)

That A. Alshaikhahmed will create a draft workplan for 2021 on behalf of the advisory committee for immigrants and refugees.

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(R. Safi)

That the Meeting for the Immigrant and Refugee Committee be adjourned at 8:06pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 2021