



Hamilton

**Minutes**

**IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 13, 2022

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:** Rami Safi (Chair), Aref Alshaikhahmed, Jennie Hamilton, Khursheed Ahmed, Eisham Abdulkarim

**Regrets:** Dina Honig (Vice Chair), Dorar Abuzaid, Leslyn Gombakomba, Ammira Ali, Grace Maciak, Councillor Maureen Wilson

**Also**

**Present:** Cole Gately – Staff Liaison, Diversity & Inclusion

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**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

R. Safi provided a round of welcome.

**2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)**

A. Alshaikhahmed provided the Land Acknowledgement

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

**(J.Hamilton/E. Abdulkarim)**

That the Agenda of January 13, 2022 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

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

**Minutes of December 9, 2021 (Item 4.1)**

**(J. Hamilton/K. Ahmed)**

That the Minutes of December 9, 2021 be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**

**i. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (Item 10.1)**

Nothing arose

**ii. Election of Chair, VC, and Recording Secretary (Item 10.2)**

**(K. Ahmed/A. Alshaikhahmed)**

That the Chair role be filled by J. Hamilton.

**CARRIED**

**(K. Ahmed/A. Alshaikhahmed)**

That the Vice Chair role be filled by E. Abdulkarim.

Recording Secretary to be discussed at next meeting.

**CARRIED**

**iii. Action Plan (Item 10.3)**

A. Alshaikhahmed developed a first version of the plan in December.

Discussion refined the priorities, and they may change after ascertaining priority areas identified in HIPC's last survey. Staff to ask HIPC for most recent survey results report. The identified priorities, which may change after the HIPC report has been reviewed, are as follows:

1. Housing, homelessness and gentrification
2. English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language services

- a. e.g. understanding LinkedIn and Match
- 3. Financial literacy for newcomers
- 4. Raising awareness of health and mental health services for newcomers

At next meeting, members will discuss the potential merits of purchasing a membership to the Canadian Council of Refugees.

**6. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

**(J. Hamilton/A. Alshaikhahmed)**

That the Meeting for the Immigrant and Refugee Committee be adjourned at 7.30pm.

**CARRIED**