

King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2023
Time: 5:30 PM – 6:45 PM
Zoom Link: <https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/81026659791>
Zoom all-in: +1 253 215 8782
Meeting ID: 810 2665 9791
Password: 760698
On site location: Tukwila Library – Tukwila Library Room 1
 14380 Tukwila International Blvd
 Tukwila, WA 98168 ([Google Maps](#))

Meetings are open to the public. Meeting notes will be made available on the KCIRC Website.

Attendance:

Commissioners: Carlos Michel, Mario Banuelos, Mohamed Bakr, Kia McGlone, Praveena Thammireddy, Zahra Mohamed, and Sergio Razo

Absent: Chair Bilan Aden

Staff Members: Cheryse Ishii, Dae Shogren, Daud Ali, and Tera Chea

Guests: Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Lorena Gutierrez- Perez, Angela Toussaint, and Melvin Gibbons

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER	Notes
5:30 PM (2 mins)	Call to Order	Dae Shogren	
5:32 PM (3 mins)	Roll Call	Dae Shogren	
5:35 PM (5 mins)	Land and Life Acknowledgement	Mario Banuelos	
5:40 PM (5 mins)	Adoption of Agenda / Approval of Minutes	KCIRC Staff	
5:45 PM (5 mins)	Public Comment	KCIRC Staff	No Public Comment
5:50 PM (20 mins)	Meet and Greet: King County Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles	KCIRC Council Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles • Chairs the Committee of the Whole—will be having an executive branch briefing on 10/4 to discuss the new Cultural Access Washington (Doors Open). This would provide a lot of funding dedicated to arts, culture, science, and

			<p>heritage programs within King County. About a fourth of the funding would go to underserved areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed legislation in King County that was passed that prohibited businesses from only accepting credit/debit cards. <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kia McGlone: Does the council have an estimate of how many immigrants and refugees are in King County? CM Kohl-Welles: Will search for this information and get back to her. Dae Shogren: about 22% of King County are immigrants or refugees in 2017 Mario Banelos: How do we hold accountability, how do you envision accountability checks and balances with the Office of I&R and the community, what is your recommendation or words of wisdom in securing an infrastructure that will stand time and muster, what can we avoid or what can we focus on, budget ask wise long term, sustainability wise, scope of authority CM Kohl-Welles: Believes the commission will gain stability and budget. Therefore—this will enhance their abilities to function while being an Office. There will be more opportunities for other things—such as staffing support Mario Banelos: Is there something we can do now to support the committee? Councilmember Kohl-Welles: The best course of action should be passing legislation to create the office, so that this input is directly given from the KCIRC
<p>6:10 PM (25 mins)</p>	<p>KCIRC Staff Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OERSJ Restructuring / Staff Changes (5 mins) Upcoming Vacancies and Elections (5 mins) Asylum Seekers Solutions, City of Tukwila (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins) 	<p>KCIRC Staff</p>	<p>Cheryse Ishii</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryse Ishii will be coming back to serve on KCIRC in the interim due to OERSJ Restructuring There are upcoming vacancies and elections. Bilan will be resigning—but can support in limited capacity. During elections, leadership should be elected—Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary In the following meetings, information about elections and the positions will be shared later <p>Daud Ali</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended Riverton Church’s Asylum Seekers Solutions Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asylum seekers are currently housed by Riverton Church and are sleeping

			<p>outside—up to 70 children and 100 adults.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The church does not have enough capacity to support this amount of people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the City of Tukwila’s Council Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The mayor is working on this issue. • Sergio Razo: How do we connect other community organizations to participate/support with Asylum Seekers Solutions? • Daud Ali: You can start by contacting Tukwila City Council Members or the Mayor and having your voices heard. • Cheryse Ishii: Previously, the commission put together an official statement/letter to the jurisdiction that these events were happening in • Mario Banuelos: If we were the Office of Immigrant and Refugees, as opposed to the commission, how would the answer of Sergio’s previous question change? What could be something we could do?
6:35 PM (10 mins)	King County Commissioner Closing Comments <i>including suggestions for future meeting topics</i>	KCIRC Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Huma, Bilan, and Lalita have reached the end of their term and we would like to celebrate them and their contributions to the KCIRC • Continuing to build the process in our onboarding for our new members • Agenda items for next month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KCIRC Elections and Leadership Roles ○ Potential letter written in support of the asylum seekers at Riverton Church
6:45 PM	Adjourn	Interim Chair	