



Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Present: Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Roxanna Maldonado-Garcia, Karin Lin, Nick Lopez-Cortes, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Melanie Torres, and Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, and CIRC Staff Nancy Schlacter, Crystal Rosa and Tagesech Wabeto

Absent: Commissioners Elena Chopyak, Yarlennys Villaman, Leslie DiTrani, and Jennifer Sparks (on the phone).

1. Call to order

Co-Chair Macedo called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

2. Public comment:

Commissioner Macedo announced that he was recording the meeting. There was no public comment. There was one journalism student, Hannah LNU present during the meeting, who was also recording the meeting.

3. Review and approval of January and February Minutes

Commissioners reviewed the edits to the January minutes, Commissioner Lopez-Cortes moved to approve and Commissioner Lin seconded. Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the meeting in February. Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo moved to approve and Commissioner Torres seconded. Due to lack of quorum, there was no regular March meeting. Members of the Welcome Event Working Groups discussed ideas for the event at the time scheduled for the March meeting. No votes were taken.

4. Executive Directors Report

Legal Screening Clinic

ED Schlacter briefed the commission on the two legal screening clinics that occurred in April. March's legal clinic was postponed to April 4, 2018, because of the snowstorm forecast for Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The turnout for the clinic at the rescheduled date was down, with only 4 clients, likely due to the irregular date. The regularly scheduled (third Wednesday) clinic on Wednesday, April 18 was attended by more than a dozen clients, similar to previous months. DHSP confirmed that childcare staff will be available for the May clinic.

Know Your Rights

The KYR scheduled at the Islamic Society of Boston/Cambridge on Tuesday, March 13th was postponed due to a forecasted snow storm. The KYR was rescheduled and occurred on Tuesday, March 27 from 5:30-7:00 pm at 204 Prospect Street. Susan Church led the training for a well-attended workshop.

Cambridge Legal Defense Fund for Immigrants

Ed Schlacter summarized the coordinated efforts by the Mayor's Office and Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) to fundraise \$500,000 for legal service providers who serve immigrants for deportation/detention defense. This is not a city-sponsored fund.

Report from Immigrant Services Liaison

Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL) Wabeto provided a report of her monthly outreach activities. ISL Wabeto explained that she visits each public housing building twice a month to replenish outreach materials. ISL Wabeto has been attending the Winter Farmers Market regularly to create outreach consistency and connections with the community. ISL Wabeto explained that she enjoys the 1:1 connection with the individuals who seek her services.

MMA Mayor's Mtg

ED Schlacter attended a meeting for Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) at the Cambridge Public Library regarding immigration issues affecting Massachusetts cities. Police Commissioners from Boston, Cambridge and Chelsea and the Bureau Chief of the Attorney General's Public Protection Bureau discussed policing in a Sanctuary City and challenges arising from policies of the current federal administration.

5. New Business

• Arts Council

ED Schlacter was unable to schedule Executive Director Jason Weeks to attend this month's meeting because there was no quorum present at the last meeting. ED Weeks has previously provided ideas for long-term art projects for the Commission to consider. ED Schlacter will schedule ED Weeks for the next CIRC meeting for which he is available.

• Generic Business Cards for Commissioners

Project Coordinator Rosa provided the Commission with mock-ups of the business cards. The Commission provided more suggestions and Project Coordinator Rosa will create a digital proof for their approval. CIRC will have these business cards printed for the 6/9/18 Welcome Event.

• DACA/Financial Aid presentations for CRLS staff – no update yet

At a previous meeting, Co-Chair DiTrani went through the PowerPoint slides and explained that the presentation provides guidance counselors resources on college applications and financial aid for students who may be undocumented. The presentation also includes information about TPS expirations. A suggestion was made to include information about CIRC, mission statement, and other resources. Commissioners Epstein-Santoyo and Maldonado-Garcia will be presenting the information to the Guidance Counselors. Commissioner Sparks moved to approve the presentation as demonstrated, and Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo seconded, unanimously approved by the Commission. The Commission also discussed whether to include ENROOT as a resource or best practice in the presentation. Co-Chair DiTrani will follow up with Executive Director Ben Clark and send the presentation to CIRC staff to add more information about the Commission.

• Immigrant Family Preparedness training – Still under review at Law Dept.

ED Schlacter explained that the Law Department has approved the distribution of materials prepared by the AGO on family preparedness, which provide guidance for immigrants on how to prepare in advance to address children's needs in the event a parent is detained or deported. ED Schlacter is awaiting approval from the Law Dept. regarding having a Family Law Attorney from the Mass. Law Reform Institute (MLRI) and staff from the PAIR Project provide Family Preparedness train-the-trainer trainings to City staff working with immigrants.

• 'Elevator Pitch' on CIRC for outreach – on hold for Fall

Communications working group: Commissioners Torres, Lopez-Cortes, Macedo and Sylvain-Williams. Commissioner Lopez-Cortes offered to create a blurb within the next about CIRC's Immigrant Welcome event, to provide the Mayor's Office for its June Immigration Heritage Month calendar of events.

• Partnering with AGO on UPIL training/outreach – Commissioner Villaman will update when present

Commissioner Villaman, who works at the AGO Community Engagement Division, announced that the AGO is rolling out Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (UPIL) training and outreach throughout the State and is looking to collaborate with CIRC for local trainings. Commissioner Villaman has conducted these trainings in East Boston with a turnout of 70 people. The training is about 30-45 minutes long and available in Portuguese and Spanish. Commissioner Villaman suggested adding the training with KYRs. ED Schlacter will contact CLC to organize trainings.

• Cambridge Police U-Visa certification policy

Since the last meeting, ED Schlacter has had additional conversations with the City Manager, Law Department, and the Cambridge Police Department Commissioner's Office about the CPD's policy for certification of victim/witness cooperation with CPD in support of U Visa applications. One of the clarifications explained that CPD officers are not informed of this policy because CPD does not want its officers to induce testimony, which could undermine a case. The Middlesex District Attorney's office also certifies victim/witness cooperation with investigation and prosecution of crime, and CPD will be adding a notice to their website for immigration lawyers to follow up with CPD's Office of the Legal Advisor if they are seeking certification for their clients who have been cooperative victim/witnesses. It was suggested that CPD add the CLSACC Legal Screening Clinic to the list of resources officers provide to folks who pose immigration-related questions. The Commission agreed that CPD practice is satisfactory and CIRC will be charged to follow up with CPD.

- **Immigrant Welcoming Event – Working Group Commissioners Villaman, Torres, Macedo**

The event is scheduled for June 9th from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at the Cambridge Main Library. Commissioner Sylvain-Williams summarized the ideas developed by the working group. CHRC staff will update the flyer to add an official title and add more information about the event. Commissioner Sylvain-Williams will meet with Project Coordinator Rosa to discuss a budget for decorations and a shift list for volunteer roles. The working group has a May 20 deadline to confirm performers and food vendors.

6. Future Projects

- **PSAs for CIRC**

Working group: Commissioners Villaman, Sylvain-Williams, and Chopyak. This is on hold for Spring.

- **Constant Contact newsletter**

CIRC staff has added a link to a Google Form on the CIRC website where the Commission can start collecting emails from interested parties who request to receive a newsletter.

Commissioner Lin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, May 24, 2018, in the Large Conference Rm on the 2nd Flr at 6 pm.