

Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship
Tuesday, December 16, 2025
Virtual Public Meeting

Present: Chair Felipe Lobo Koerich, Commissioners Anne Odera, Vanessa Ruget, Karin Lin, Karim Razzaz, and Sarah Figge Hussain.

City Staff: Executive Director Carolina Almonte, Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

Absent: Chair Shubhan Nagendra, Commissioners Ana Mejia, Raul Ripoll, Subandha Karmacharya, and Tsamchoe Dolma.

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Lobo Koerich called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. Public Comments

- a. Sharon Antia joined a member of the public. Ms. Antia was interested in learning more about the work of the Commission.

3. Review and approval of October 2025 Minutes

- a. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the meeting in September 2025. Commissioner Razzaz moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Figge Hussain seconded. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

4. Staff Reports

- a. ED Almonte
 - o Department Restructure: ED Almonte shared updates regarding the recent restructuring within the Equity and Inclusion Department, including staff layoffs. She noted that a Program Manager position is expected to be posted and hired in the coming months to support the work of the Commission.
 - o De Novo Legal Clinic: ED Almonte also provided an update on the De Novo Legal Clinic. She shared that while the clinic is continuing, challenges with recruiting volunteer attorneys have limited capacity. She plans to meet with De Novo to discuss strategies to strengthen the clinic and improve response times. Commissioner Figge Hussain recommended connecting with the digital navigators to learn about their scheduling process, which may be helpful for the clinic.

- b. ISL Wabeto

- o ISL Wabeto has been doing outreach about the Monthly Legal Clinic, the Pathways for Immigrant Workers clinic, and various workshops. As usual, ISL Wabeto has been essential to providing community members with resources and information.

5. Old Business

a. TPS Training Recap

- o ED Almonte shared that the Temporary Protected Status KYR's training (presented by De Novo) was valuable for attendees. Attendance was lower than anticipated due to inclement weather.

6. New Business

a. Planning for 2026 CIRC Priorities and Work Plan

- o Commissioners discussed preliminary ideas for the 2026 work plan. Commissioner Razzaz recommended establishing working groups to advance the Commission's work, including policy, advocacy, and community engagement working groups. Commissioner Ruget emphasized the importance of identifying ways to celebrate immigrant community members, particularly amid fear and uncertainty related to the federal administration.

b. "Borderland: The Line Within"

- o The Commission reviewed the request to co-sponsor a showing of "Borderland: The Line Within." Commissioner Koerich moved to approve the request; Commissioner Figge Hussain seconded. All voted in favor of co-sponsoring this event.

c. Commissioner Figge Hussain reminded the Commission about creating Family Preparedness Guides for the community. ED Almonte will connect with City partners to continue planning.

7. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Ruget moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Commissioner Figge Hussain seconded.