

**Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2016**

Present: Commissioners Marcio Macedo, Jennifer Sparks, Yarlennys Villaman, Roxana Maldonado-Garcia, Merline Sylvain-Williams, Karin Lin, Melanie Torres, and Swati Sawant.

Absent: Commissioners Sana Ghafoor, Leslie DiTrani, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, and CIRC Staff Crystal Rosa.

CIRC Staff: Nancy Schlacter

Public: Susan Fleischmann of CCTV Cambridge

Documents used:

- March Minutes
- April Agenda

**1. Call to order**

Executive Director Schlacter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. No one was recording the meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Susan Fleischmann of CCTV Cambridge spoke with the commission regarding options for public service announcements (PSAs), as a follow up to a live TV program which Commissioner DiTrani and ED Schlacter previously did with CCTV. There was some discussion that KYR training curriculum may be too extensive, instead 30 sec or 1 min ( $\leq 2$  min) PSAs, in multiple languages either spoken directly, subtitled, or using voiceovers may be more effective. All commissioners expressed interest in participating. Timeline for PSAs projected to be over the next few months. Ms. Fleischmann will share some pre-drafted scripts with the commission for feedback. The goal is to provide a taste of the KYR information and be a resource for more info, i.e. CIRC website. Discussions ensued regarding acting out key parts of the KYR training, to be addressed further.

**3. Review and approval of March Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March meeting and approved them unanimously with edits addressed on a motion from Commissioner Sparks, seconded by Commissioner Lin.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

- ED Schlacter is in the process of coordinating 2 KYR trainings. On Tuesday, April 25, from 6 pm - 7pm, there will be a KYR at Amigos School (15 Upton Street), led by Attorney Daniel Santiago. This KYR will be in Spanish and open to the public. The second KYR still needs to be confirmed but will be hosted at Graham and Park School (44 Linnaean Street).
- The position for an Outreach/Referral Specialist was posted and closes on May2, 2017. There are 25 applications received thus far. Commissioners Sylvain-Williams, Sawant, Sparks and Torres expressed interested in screening applicant resumes. The applications will not be emailed. Commissioners will view and rank applicants at CIRC/CHRC Office.

- Executive Directors of CIRC and PRAB spoke at MIT's Day of Action about Cambridge as a Sanctuary City and discussed policing in a Sanctuary City.
- Executive Directors of CIRC and PRAB also spoke at CPD's Cambridgeport Neighborhood Sergeants' Meeting at the Central Square Library. There were approximately fifty attendees. There were 9 ACLU-designated best practices identified for CPD. CPD indicated they already implement 8 out of 9 best practices. The attendees and CPD agreed to disagree on the first best practice designated by the ACLU.
- **Screening Referral Clinic**  
There was discussion about the Legal Screening Clinic (and whom to reach to: MOIA, CLSACC, MIRA, BBA, MBA, and AILA). Boston's MOIA staff no longer screen volunteer immigration attorneys for their clinic. MOIA recommended contacting Boston or MA Bar Associations to identify Attorneys with Immigration experience to develop criteria and do the screening. ED Schlacter reached out to MOIA, CLSACC, MIRA, BBA, MBA, and AILA. A goal for the volunteer attorneys would be to work at 1-2/clinics year for the 2 hour/clinic. The City will need to identify and arrange for experienced Supervising Immigration Attorney(s) for those volunteers with more limited immigration experience. The City cannot pay for legal counsel of individuals, but may be able to fund supervision of volunteers. Law Department is currently reviewing this issue. Dierdre Giblin (CLSACC) was identified as a person who had volunteered in the past for MOIA. Additional outreach to Mass Bar, and to AILA's pro bono committee. Additional options: Fragomen firm and Foley/Hoag's pro bono group were suggested.

## 5. Needs Assessment

Commissioners conducted 33 interviews. Commissioner Lin and Macedo will review interview responses, tabulate, and analyze the information. They will anonymize each participant, turn the interview into qualitative data over the next month, and present it to the group. Commissioner Sylvain-Williams brought up concerns about interviewing Puerto Ricans and their transition. There was discussion about the role of CIRC regarding rights and citizenship as well as immigrant pathways, vs acculturation and assumptions made based on social status [i.e. Doctors may have it easier, when in fact they may not.] Next steps are to draft Needs Assessment Report and develop a timeline/workplan.

## 6. New Business

- **LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers**  
There was a follow up discussion regarding collaborating with the members of the LGBTQ+ Commission for an awareness-building event about LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Undocumented LGBTQ+ people in fall 2017. ED Schlacter has coordinated with 2 Attorneys, Lisa Weiner of CLSACC and Stephanie Fisher of Araujo & Fisher. Commissioner Villaman has volunteered to meet with the group and assist. Commissioner Macedo also expressed interest in helping. This information will be forwarded to Bill Barnert to form volunteer subcommittee.
- **Fresh Pond Day Outreach**  
Outreach tabling opportunity on May 20, 2017 was cancelled due to insufficient CIRC member staffing.
- **Training/Information Services**

Currently there are USCIS information hours at the Boston Public Library. ED Schlacter will research possibility for the Cambridge Public Library. BPL has a grant for kiosks that provide information. Commissioner Torres noted that information could be placed in the library without the USCIS being present. This project is not an immediate priority.

- **Open Discussion**

- Goals for the first year of CIRC  
Execute 2 great ideas as a foundation, and then build upon them by brainstorming improvements. Otherwise, the Commission will drown in the possibilities.
- Commissioner Villaman suggested the Commission order T-shirts to serve as an identifiable item to wear as a commissioner for CIRC. This suggestion was supported by Commissioner Sylvain-Williams.
- Dep. Supt. Christine Elow has offered herself as CPD liaison to CIRC, regularly or as requested, to assist the commission regarding policing issues within the City of Cambridge. Dep. Supt. Elow has been participating in the KYR trainings since the trainings started.
- There was a recommendation for a suggestion box to help generate ideas from residents for Immigrant Welcoming Event day.
- ED Schlacter explained that the City Law Department recommended revising the Red Cards due to discrepancy between ICE officer and cardholder text. CIRC will continue using existing red cards until revised and retranslated cards are available.

**7. Immigrant Welcoming Event – Fall 2017**

The Commission is still determining a name for the event and clarifying the audience. The event coordinator for Danehy Park Day declined to piggyback that event with an emphasis on immigrants. There was a discussion regarding venue options such as indoor or outdoor, including university campuses. Another suggestion was an event like the Literacy Day that was held at City Hall. The Commission discussed the importance of City Hall as a symbol for inviting and welcoming the immigrant community within its walls. However, concerns exist among immigrant communities regarding a potential ICE presence at a public immigrant event. ED Schlacter will research if City Hall is available in October for an event. The Commission discussed ways wherein attendees are encouraged to visit various outreach tables and receive a stamp on a card, to be used as submission to win a prize or gift bag, etc. Members of the Commission were interested in including speakers, dancers, programs, food and educational resources. Commissioners Villaman, Sylvain-Williams, Sparks and Torres volunteered to form a subcommittee. A doodle survey will be sent out to find a date/time/location so that it can be posted for public open meeting law.

Commissioner Sparks moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sylvain-Williams.

**Next Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**