



Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2017

Present: Commissioners Leslie DiTrani, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, Karin Lin, Nick Lopez-Cortes, Marcio Macedo, Roxanna Maldonado-Garcia, Jennifer Sparks, Melanie Torres and Yarlennys Villaman and CIRC Staff Nancy Schlacter and Tagesech Wabeto

Absent: Commissioners Elena Chopyak, Merline Sylvain-Williams and CIRC Staff Crystal Rosa

Notes taken by Commissioner Jennifer Sparks

1. Call to order

Executive Director Schlacter called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Public comment:

Public persons present introduced themselves as Alexandra Jimenez with BU School of Social Work, and Grace Weinstein of BU Social work and reporting for the Cambridge Chronicle.

3. Review and approval of June Minutes

Commissioners reviewed the minutes. Commissioner Torres noted correction that the minutes referenced were really May and not March. Commissioner Sparks moved to approve them and Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo seconded

4. Welcome

The Commission welcomed new member Nick Lopez-Cortez, read an introduction message from Elena Chopyak, and welcomed newest CIRC staff, Tagesech Wabeto, Immigrant Services Liaison.

5. Executive Directors Report

• **AILA/PAIR KYR trainings**

ED Schlacter is in the process of coordinating 2 KYRs, one on October 18, 2017 at the Pentecostal Tabernacle located at 77 Columbia St, on Wednesday 6-8pm, and the other on November 4, 2017 at First Church of the Nazarene located at 234 Franklin St, on Saturday 10-11:30 am.

• **Discussion about Legal Screening Clinic status**

On October 2, 2017, ED Schlacter will be discussing clinic with CLSACC, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Solicitor and Asst. City Solicitor. On September 15, 2017, ED Schlacter had a conference call with Boston MOIA and IIC regarding their history with screening clinics and what they have learned. The regular date/location for Screening Clinics will likely be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:15-7:15, but this still needs to be confirmed. The City is linking into funding through MLAC to pay for use of space at CLSACC for the clinics and the Supervising Attorneys, due to restrictions involving use of taxpayer funds for individual legal assistance. The screening clinics will be managed by Supervising Attorney/s through CLSACC, with volunteer attorneys that have been vetted by CLSACC. Time of the clinics will be after work hours, in order to accommodate the needs of the community and those of the volunteers (perhaps closer to close of business day vs lunchtime, as in Boston). The function of the screening clinic will be to provide limited consultation and screening and serve as a referral clinic where immigrants meet with an experienced immigration attorney who determines which legal service organization would be most appropriate (i.e. PAIR v CLSACC v for fee for service attorney).

• **Cambridge Amicus Briefs on behalf of Immigrant issues**

- Chicago v Sessions: Cambridge signed on, with 64 other cities, in support of Chicago v Sessions addressing JAG grant funding at risk for Sanctuary cities.

- Supreme Judicial Court of MA noted re ICE detainees: essentially unconstitutional holding criminal defendants beyond time.

- **Needs Assessment Report finalized and submitted to the City Manager**

Completed and copies provided to commissioners as well as uploaded to the website.

- **DACA clinics**

MIRA Coalition created an information webpage regarding MA Legal Services DACA Community workshops: <http://www.miracoalition.org/daca>

6. New Business

- **Greater Boston Immigrant Fund**

MA Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC)-sponsored public-private partnership, a 2-yr pilot program to be evaluated by Boston MOIA. Legal representation will be available for individuals facing deportation proceedings in immigration court who cannot afford a lawyer. The partnership will also contribute to community education and preparedness programming such as KYR trainings, legal screenings, and referrals etc. There will be prioritized services for low income individuals who need immediate assistance and provide funding to existing immigrant-serving non-profits (not individuals).

- **Update on LGBTQ + Cmsn/CIRC partnering on an awareness-building event @ LGBTQ + Asylum seekers and undocumented LGBTQ + people Thursday 11/9/17.** Commissioner Villaman noted current thoughts include having a couple of attorneys to speak, goal to have a highly interactive event.

- **CIRC vote for Co-Chairs:** Commissioners Macedo and DiTrani nominated each other. Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo moved to vote on the nominations which was second by Commissioner Sparks. The Commission unanimously voted Commissioner Macedo and DiTrani to be Co-Chairs.

- **Feedback on Danehy Park tabling:** people were very engaged with the flags. Outreach provided by both Commissioner Macedo and Sparks, as well as Executive Director Schlacter and Crystal Rosa. Several ideas came out of this experience:

- Group List serve vs social media options: perhaps start with list serve and the see what need is and grow from there
- Elevator speech on CIRC for outreach: Commissioners to look at the CIRC Ordinance language sent out by Commissioner DiTrani and will draft some thoughts for the upcoming meeting. Commissioner Lopez-Cortez to send out email in 2 weeks to get a few statements from the Commissioners.
- Decisions on t-shirt: logo on front and Cambridge map welcome image on back
- Generic business cards for commissioners: CIRC logo, address, phone number, and web address.

- **Communications subcommittee:** Commissioners Nick Cortez-Lopez and Marcio Macedo

- **Immigrant Welcoming Event – date TBD**

- Subcommittee: Merline, Yarlennys, Melanie and Roxanna
- What are the goals of this event? Advocacy? Making ourselves known? Allying with our immigrant population? Making a difference?
- There was discussion surrounding trying to gain better understanding of the immigrant services in the community prior to this event so that we may know how to best utilize or advertise them.
- Perhaps the subcommittee can come up with 3 proposals for the immigrant welcoming event. Does not have to be public meeting, as it is not a quorum.
- Ideas mentioned include: panel discussions and interactive event, and focusing on the topics outlined in the Needs Assessment.

- **Next meeting dates:** given the upcoming holidays perhaps Nov 16th or 30th (tbd), December date confirmed to be the 21st (3rd Thursday)