



**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2019**

**Present:** Co-Chair Nick Lopez-Cortes and Commissioners Elizabeth Badger, Donna Davis, Karim Razzaz, Karin Lin, Marcio Macedo, Alejandro Epstein-Santoyo, Merline Sylvain-Williams and CIRC Staff: Executive Director Nancy Schlacter, Project Coordinator Crystal Rosa, and Immigrant Services Liaison Tagesech Wabeto

**Absent:**

Commissioners Sandra Mercedes Canas, Jennifer Sparks and Yarlennys Villaman

**1. Call to order:**

Quorum was not present until after the presentation by CPD Superintendent Elow. Co-Chair Lopes-Cortez called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**2. Public comment**

No public present, no comment.

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

Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the March meeting, Commissioner Sylvain-Williams moved to approve, and Commissioner Badger seconded.

**4. Presentation by Cambridge Police Department (CPD) Superintendent (Supt.) Christine Elow**

Supt. Elow stated that CPD does not consider the immigration status of persons in Cambridge when interacting with folks. CPD is concerned that victims of and witnesses to crime are afraid to come forward, therefore CPD officers will not ask a person about their immigration status. ICE has detained and deported people in MA, but this has not happened in Cambridge. CPD has attended events at the ISB/C Mosque to show their support and build community trust. Supt. Elow explained that the City Manager and City Council would direct the response if the US President started targeting cities that have declared themselves as sanctuary cities. Supt. Elow further explained that State Police has jurisdiction over all state roadways. In Cambridge, that would include Mass Ave., Memorial Drive, Fresh Pond Parkway and Cambridge Street. MBTA has jurisdiction anywhere a T or bus goes. CPD would not resist ICE's assertion of custody over a resident. The individual would have to wait for the court system to weigh in. Commissioners Badger and Epstein-Santoyo asked Supt. Elow how/if ICE can access Field Investigation Observations and the "gang database" for information regarding suspected undocumented immigrants. Supt. Elow stated that she would follow up on this. Commissioners Badger and Epstein-Santoyo voiced concerns regarding what is being shared and with whom. Supt. Elow stated that ICE does not announce when it is in the city. Supt. Elow stated that she would also ask the investigative unit if any of its officers have a relationship with ICE officers. Supt. Elow announced that the members of the Commission are welcome to attend the Sergeants meeting on May 22.

**5. Executive Director's (ED) report**

The April 20th legal screening clinic had 21 clients. We will continue to schedule 5 attorneys to meet the increasing demand. Commissioners will need to decide which of the 5 films identified as top choices by the Working Group to try to show, to help determine the length of the event. Members will review the films selected by the working group and vote at the next meeting. The Cambridge Public Library was unable to secure Poet Javier Zamora for their event celebrating Immigrant Heritage Month in June. ED Schlacter agreed to cosponsor honoraria for poet performers. ED Schlacter explained that the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights is launching a multilingual census hotline to provide legally accurate information and communicate directly with people who have concerns about the Census. LCR will be providing community education material to encourage and explain the importance of all immigrants completing the Census. Protecting Immigrant Families has created a PowerPoint for a Public Charge 101, which explains the status of Public Charge currently and anticipated impacts. The changes may take effect in June. ED Schlacter will forward the PowerPoint information to CPL and CLC.

- **Report from Immigrant Services Liaison (ISL)**

ISL Wabeto provided the highlights of her monthly outreach. ISL attended 3 busy tabling events and a DHSP professional development training on planning and organization. The Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Ellen Semonoff, met with the CET workers to find out what they have learned about the experience of the communities they represent. ISL Wabeto announced that MIT and Lesley University are partnering to provide STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, art and math) at the City's Foundry space. The Foundry, an old building acquired by the City, was redeveloped by the City for a range of community use purposes. ISL Wabeto met with Reservoir Church Pastor Lydia Shiu to discuss outreach opportunities. ISL Wabeto was approved to table at 3 days of the church's well-attended soccer events. ISL Wabeto was invited to attend their 5-week training on community outreach. ISL Wabeto spoke about CIRC to 6 residents who take ESL classes at CPL. ISL Wabeto will be participating in the 4-day Door-to-Door Campaign with DHSP and CPD, which includes info about the CIRC/De Novo clinic on the city services door tag.

## 6. **New Business**

### **East Boston Savings Bank table at the Welcome Event?**

The Commission discussed the possibility of having an immigrant employee from EBSB talk about their experience working with the bank and how they went about applying for a professional job. The Commission discussed its relevance to the Welcome Event and suggested the employee might better speak with residents who use DHSP's Workforce Development Division's services.

## 7. **Ongoing Business**

- **Welcome Event**

ED Schlacter explained that the working group identified 5 films that the Commission could choose from for the Welcome Event. The working group focused on stories of immigrants created by local Immigrant filmmakers. The Cambridge Public Library (CPL) Lecture Hall, Hallway, and Community Room spaces are secured for Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The structure of the event would be: show the 3 films, have a panel of filmmakers and subjects speak, and then run all of the videos in a loop after the discussion. Following the films/discussion, the food service in the Community Room would be opened up. Info tabling would take place in the hallway, like the first year. Commissioners voted for CIRC to book the top three videos selected but if those are not available then to book remaining videos, Commissioner Macedo moved to approve, and Commissioner Epstein-Santoyo seconded.

- **Goal setting for CIRC 2019**

The Commission reviewed the 1-page summary of the Needs Assessment and a print out of the goals and ideas from the November 2017 minutes. The Commission noted that it has already created the legal clinic, hired an outreach worker, and completed the PSA with CCTV. The Commission listed the two working groups that already exist.

- Welcome Event Working Group:

- Commissioners Lin, Sparks, Lopez-Cortes and Sylvain-Williams

- Communications Working Group:

- Commissioners Villaman, Lin, Canas and Lopez-Cortes

The Communications Working Group will be tasked with creating a palm card, elevator pitch and communications strategy.

The Commission created a working group for getting financial aid information to DACA students.

- School Counselor (DACA Financial Aid) Working Group:

- Commissioners Badger, Epstein-Santoyo and Sylvain-Williams

Commissioners Badger and Lopez-Cortes will follow up with the schools using the personal narrative described by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes. Commissioner Badger will leverage her personal relationship with the school counselors.

Commissioner Macedo moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sylvain-Williams.

Next commission meeting will be on Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 6 pm in the Large Conference Room.