Aurora Immigrant & Refugee Commission

Monday, October 14, 2019 5:30pm Aurora Municipal Center, Aspen Conference Room 15151 E. Alameda Parkway Aurora, CO 80012

Commissioners Present: Alula Arega; Jackie Zvejnieks; Julie Ressalam; Kevin Vargas;

Marcus Doe; Marlon Erazo; Sabe Kemer

Commissioners Excused: Chukwu Fumnanya Camara; Linda Skelley; Abukar

Muhumed; Christian Jimenez

Commissioners Absent: None

Other present: Alejandra Ospina, Chris Shackelford, T. Scott Williams

Staff Present: Ricardo Gambetta

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Chair Ressalam.

2. Mr. Scott William, Executive Director of the Aurora History Museum and Mr. Christopher Shackelford. Staff made a presentation about their upcoming exhibition titled: The Battle for the Ballot. They invited AIRC members to assist the AHM exhibition planning team sharing names of potential names of immigrant women that became U.S. Citizens, so the final exhibition will reflect the diversity of the city of Aurora.

3. OIIA Update:

Mr. Ricardo Gambetta shared some key updates about OIIA with the members of the commission, including the latest community outreach and research efforts related to the new immigrant integration plan, the Day of the Dead Celebration, the Salvadorian exhibition at Town Center Mall among others.

- 4. AIRC Chair and Co-Chair presented an update report about their latest presentation before the City Council Policy Committee regarding AIRC Annual Report and plans for 2020.
 AIRC agreed to prepare a set of policy recommendations to be presented to CM Richardson regarding the ICE facility in Aurora. CM Richardson asked AIRC for this kind of ideas and suggestions how to deal with the whole ICE issue in the city.
- 5. AIRC members agreed to move forward with the Thank You America event in the spring of 2020. AIRC will be work together with OIIA staff in the planning of this event.
- 6. Due to the latest national developments regarding the Public Charge issue, AIRC agreed to cancel the planning of the Public Charge town hall meeting until further notice.

- 7. AIRC members and OIIA staff discussed about the upcoming Holiday Party, everyone agreed to have this special event on Monday December 2. Place: TBD. OIIA staff will work on the logistics and details of this event.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at 7.40pm by Chair Ressalam

Julie Ressalam,

Chair

Vice-Chair