

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Establish a New Portlanders Policy Commission (Ordinance; add Code Chapter 3.131)

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Presenters name: Lee Po Cha, Exec Director of IRCO, New Portlanders Policy Council Co-Chair
Linda Castillo, Dir. of Civic Engagement and Leadership, Latino Network, Policy Council Co-Chair
Ronault Catalani, New Portlanders Program, Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information

The City of Portland is recognized as an American gateway city. We are a gateway to global movements of families, capital, products, and ideas. Currently, nearly 1 in 5 Portlanders are foreign born, and 1 in 5 households speak home-languages other than English.

The proposed New Portlander Policy Commission will institutionalize the City's commitment to integrating immigrant and refugee families into the public life of our city. The Commission's purpose is to advise City Council on policies and practices to integrate immigrant and refugee communities' voices and needs into the provision of City services, City decision-making and civic engagement.

The existing body, the New Portlander Policy Council, is a partnership of delegates from Portland's mutual assistance associations (MAAs), our community-based organizations (CBOs), and City of Portland bureau staff. The Council was formed in 2012 in response to recommendations made by previous City bodies and studies: the Mayor's Immigrant and Refugee Task Force (adopted by City Council 2008); the Coalition of Communities of Color/PSU Center to Advance Racial Equity (CARE), Unsettling Profile Research Series (adopted by City Council 2008 to 2014); and Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Community Needs Assessments (2011 and 2014). Central to the data are findings of stark disparities in educational, economic, healthy family and public life, outcomes across all New Portlander communities, as compared to outcomes for settled Portlanders.

In 2014, the New Portlander Policy Council adopted its Strategic Plan. A primary recommendation of the Plan is to create a permanent, citywide immigrant and refugee policy commission.

Financial and budgetary impacts

Staff support for the Commission will be provided by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which was allocated \$86,000 in one-time General Funds in FY2015-16

budget. The majority of these funds were not spent in the current fiscal year and will be carried over to support the staff position in FY2016-17.

Members of the New Portlanders Policy Commission will engage in the City's budget process to advocate for ongoing funding for this position in FY2017-18.

Community impacts and community involvement

The New Portlanders Policy Council is currently represented by two dozen different language communities; six faith communities; three generations; and members of the GLBTQ community. Voices represented in our work include both homeowners and renters, as well as small business interests. The 2014 Strategic Plan of the current bureau advisory body (New Portlander Policy Council) mirrors the equitable, prosperous, educated, and healthy, neighborhood goals of the Portland Plan.

As a City-wide partnership of government and community organizations, the New Portlanders Policy Commission will institutionalize the active and ongoing engagement of immigrant and refugee community leaders and members of Portland's numerous mutual assistance organizations.

Members of the New Portlanders Policy Council have worked closely with the Office of Commissioner Amanda Fritz and met with the other commissioners, Mayor, and/or Council office staff over the past six months to develop final details for the goals and structure of the new commission.

Why a Commission vs. a Council?

The New Portlanders Policy Council has identified many reasons supporting the transition from advisory council into a full Commission:

- It's important for Portland to be a welcoming community. A Commission communicates to immigrant and refugee communities that the City is dedicated to engaging immigrant and refugee communities in policy-making and service delivery.
- A City-wide commission will have the authority to advise all bureaus and Elected Officials.
- A Commission provides greater permanence amidst changes in leadership, and stability of funding for staff and operating costs, by an ordinance approved by City Council.
- Regular collaboration with bureau management will better leverage the leadership, expertise, and resources of Portland's immigrant and refugee communities.
- The Commission status will improve the recruitment and retention of strong and engaged community leaders.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

new portlander policy council

New Portlanders Policy Commission Hearing

Run of Show

May 26, 2016 2-4 pm

Portland City Council Chambers

Time	Content	Who	Logistics	Notes
2:00/3 min	Welcome and Introduction	Commissioner Fritz		
2:03/3 min	NPP Framing and Introduction of Agenda. Agenda facilitator and NPP Council member	Linda Castillo, Lee Po Cha; NPP Co-Chairs Alberto Moreno	NPP logo, wallpaper, screen #1, #2 hearing agenda	
2:06/20 min	New Portlanders Study: Executive Summary and key points	Ann Curry Stevens, PhD	Power point presentation	
2:26/ 2 min each (x2)	Resettlement in the PNW Newcomer Experiences in Portland	Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie Abdi Musse		
2:30/4 min, per speaker team (x3)	Institutionalization of immigrant and refugee integration and policy work in the City of Portland.	BES: Jennifer Devlin, Esmeralda Sanchez Parks & Rec/Mobile Parks: Arlene Kimuta, Som Sobedi PBOT: Janice McDonald, Alexis Gabriel	Power point items as determined by City staff	
2:42/2 min	Why does the City	June Arima		

(x3)	of Portland need a New Portlanders Commission?	Schumann, Community member; Sho Dozono, Business leader; Tom Potter, Former City of Portland Mayor (2005-2009)		
2:48	Closing statements	Lee Po Cha Linda Castillo		
2:50-4 pm	Questions from the Mayor and Commissioners			
	Public Testimony Begins			

Revised: 05/25/16

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ONI SUBMISSION 5-26-16

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OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT
AMALIA ALARCON de MORRIS, DIRECTOR
AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE

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1. Presentation outline
2. Prof. Ann Curry Stevens, PSU Center to Advanced Racial Equity, Portland State University. Executive summary on study on City of Portland immigrant integration history
3. Memo: Context and rationale for a City New Portlander Policy Commission
4. Proposed ordinance establishing a City New Portlander Policy Commission
5. Impact statement
6. Proposed charter, New Portlander Policy Commission

Respectfully submitted,

By: Lisha Shrestha, Immigrant Integration Policy Analyst

For: New Portlander Policy Council co-chairs

Linda Castillo, Latino Network

Lee Po Cha, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

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OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT
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AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE

New Portlander Policy Council Hearing
May 26, 2016, 2-4 pm
City of Portland Council Chambers

AGENDA

- 2:00 Welcome and Introduction by Commissioner Amanda Fritz
- 2:03 NPP Framing and Introduction of Agenda.
New Portlanders Policy Council Co-Chairs, Linda Castillo and Lee Po Cha
- Agenda facilitator and NPP Council member: Alberto Moreno
- 2:06 New Portlanders Study: Executive Summary and key points
By Dr. Ann Curry Stevens
- 2:26 Update on Resettlement in the PNW by Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie
- Newcomer Experiences in Portland by Abdi Musse
- 2:30 Institutionalization of immigrant and refugee integration and policy work in the City of Portland.
- BES: Jennifer McDonald & Esmeralda Sanchez
 - Portland Parks & Recreation/Mobile Playgrounds: Arlene Kimuta & Som Sobedi
 - PBOT: Janice McDonald & Alexis Gabriel
- 2:42 Why does the City of Portland need a New Portlanders Policy Commission?
- June Arima Schumann
 - Sho Dozono
 - Former Mayor, Tom Potter
- 2:48 Closing statements
- 2:50 Questions from the Mayor and Commissioners
- Public Testimony Begins

2016

In Need of a Long Welcome

Supporting the Integration of Newcomers to Portland

Portland's newcomer communities bring considerable assets to the region. Their legacy is one of potential untapped, as they face significant exclusion from economic and civic life, and an environment that is full of challenges without sufficient supports to help them navigate forwards into the fabric of Portland. This report, prepared in partnership with the New Portlander's Policy Council, surfaces the history of newcomer conditions in the region, including a policy history, alongside a literature review on best practices for newcomer integration, new quantitative data on the patterns of newcomer experiences, a chapter on myths and myth-busting, and insights into five newcomer communities: Indigenous Latinos, Tongan, Iraqi, Iranian and Somali. The report concludes with the agenda for "a long welcome" for newcomer communities in Portland and the region.

Ann Curry-Stevens and Anne Sinkey, Editors

*Center to Advance Racial Equity
Portland State University*



Acknowledgements

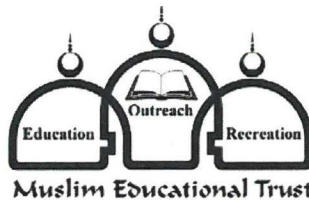
All who shared their time, knowledge and wisdom in this research,
as confirmation of their unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of newcomers to Portland.

Thank you

to the Chair's Office at Multnomah County, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement at the City of Portland, Muslim Educational Trust, the Coalition of Communities of Color, and Portland State University for their support of this study.



Multnomah County, Oregon
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A Special "Thank you"

to the staff and members of the New Portlanders Policy Council
for the opportunity extended to the Center to Advance Racial Equity
to conduct this study, and for their hours spent informing this project.
We also thank the array of community members who helped develop the text
in the community introduction chapters.

Without your generous sharing, this report would not be possible.

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DRAFT

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Executive Summary: The Newcomer Community in Portland

Newcomers to the Portland area are an untapped asset for the social, intellectual, and economic success of the region. It is time for the political, policy and sector-specific leaders to align with the recommendations in this report, and to strongly support newcomers in their effort to gain a solid footing in the region. Time is precious, and the asset base of newcomers risks disappearing: the optimism and emotional wellbeing becomes compromised across time, as the daily grind of poverty, isolation and exclusion take their toll. This report aims to catalyze an awakening to the asset base newcomers bring, and to map out a pathway to their inclusion in Portland's social, intellectual and economic fabric.

This report contains much new information about newcomers to Portland. While originally envisioned as a gathering of existing data from the "Unsettling Profile" research reports on the disparities facing various communities of color in Multnomah County, the researchers at the Center to Advance Racial Equity decided to expand their commitment to the project, and planned, at the request of the New Portlanders Policy Council (NPPC) a more expansive, asset-based understanding of the community. In partnership with the NPPC, the project became a more robust collection of insights on the following:

- A history of the policy promises and deliverables that have been valued by newcomers in the region
- New data on the racial disparities facing newcomers to the region, and comparing these with arrival conditions in an earlier era
- Myths facing newcomers and an evidence-based busting of these myths
- Literature review of the "best practices" for newcomer integration
- Introduction to five newcomer communities: indigenous Latinos, Tongans, Iraqis, Iranians and Somalis
- A policy agenda that will yield meaningful inclusion of newcomer communities

The research base for these chapters includes eight meetings with the New Portlander Policy Council to gather information on the policy history and policy agenda chapters, and another 20 interviews with leaders in specific newcomer communities to develop the community-specific chapters. In addition, original data from the American Community Survey was gathered for the data chapter on disparities faced by the community, and for the Middle Eastern chapter which has not before been explored for its disparities. Finally, the literature was used expansively to resource all the chapters, and as a result, more than 240 sources of information were tapped for this report.

Unlike other reports from the Center to Advance Racial Equity, this report is an edited collection. We have been able to tap into an excellent set of community and academic researchers, drawing a diverse set together for leadership in various chapters. We are grateful for this contribution.

So... what have we found? The key message is that newcomers are "in need of a long welcome." Such a perspective focuses on the conditions of the host community, and the importance of its assertive engagement with newcomers and supporting them more effectively and durably. We use the term "welcome" to highlight the importance of the ways that the USA is responsible for signaling and actualizing inclusion of immigrants and refugees. We urge assets-based approach to this welcome, as newcomers hold huge potential to help the economy of the region, through experiences, perspectives, capacities, resources and risk taking. Newcomer communities, if welcomed effectively, can become a source of skilled employment, educated and experienced workers, and communities that have deep problem solving capacity and abilities to network and resource each other, and teach the rest of us the lessons-learned from the community's global experience. The community's racial and ethnic identities also positions it as a considerable resource for diversifying key sectors where workers of color are urgently needed: education, policy development, organizational leadership and health and human services. Given that many in the community are underemployed, and have credentials that are not

being used in the USA, it seems a relatively easy fix to provide better recognition of credentials and experience, alongside generating considerable benefits for clients, patients and consumers to be served by those who share identities and experiences, and the improved employment and economic experiences for newcomers.

There have been brighter times in Portland's past, with the contributions of political leaders providing ideas that can be re-invigorated and reestablished. The gift of these prior experiences is that they show how individual leaders have demonstrated wise and compassionate support for newcomer integration. It is time to rebuild several of these initiatives, particularly in the area of policing which were highly valued in prior decades.

The needs among the newcomer community are considerable: our research shows that today's newcomers of color have a much harder time gaining an economic foothold than just a decade ago, with average (median) incomes dropping from \$14,481/year to just \$9,304/year. During the same time period, and looking at the same length of time in the USA, white newcomers saw their market incomes rise from \$26,769/year to \$47,718/year. These data reflect the wages that are earned. This shows us that there is an employment crisis among newcomers of color who not only struggle financially, but the racial gap has grown from a magnitude of double to quintuple – from two times larger, to five times larger. Simultaneously, it shows us that the greatest needs exist among newcomers of color, and we conducted this analysis including the full range of newcomers of color: Latino, African, Middle Eastern, Slavic, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous Latinos.

And this exists despite the fact that the most recent newcomers of color are much more educated than those who arrived about a decade earlier. Only 16% of newcomer of color who arrived between 1994 and 2004 held a university degree, while 25% of those who arrived between 2005 and 2014 held a university degree. One would normally expect that improved education would result in higher incomes, but such enhancements did not result in higher incomes – and in fact, incomes greatly deteriorated in this time period.

We considered that this experience might be occurring, holding a lived experience that the promises of the neo-liberal economic policies (which suggests that economic progress will occur with shrinking income supports, shredding the safety net, fewer jobs in civil service, greater privatization and weakened wage protections) were not manifest among newcomers. We did not expect that there would be such a differential experience between White newcomers and newcomers of color. This demonstrates a highly racialized impact of neoliberalism, stretching into the newcomer community, in ways that are similar among other communities of color in the USA. We had expected that newcomers, in general, would be struggling more. It also suggests that many settlement practices are tied to racial inclusion, and the issues of institutional racism experienced in other communities of color typically extend to our newcomers of color. This report should additionally serve as impetus to continue working on institutional racism across public and private entities that have influence on the settlement of newcomers, including places of training, employment, education, language acquisition, and policing.

As expected, the community of newcomers struggle with numerous economic and employment conditions:

- Few are able to gain access to better jobs, at 24% of workers in management, business and science, compared with 45% of White workers
- Newcomers are over-represented among service occupations, and production and transportation jobs, at 51% of the community in such positions, while only 27% of White US-born workers are in such jobs
- Poverty levels are roughly double that of US-born Whites, at 32% of families raising children, compared to 16% of White, US-born families.
- Child poverty is similarly disparate: foreign-born children have poverty rates of 48%, while White children are at 20%

Why is the situation so dire, and why has it deteriorated so quickly? Our best understanding is that the community struggles under the weight of three economic realities: that the neo-liberal policy environment continues to spiral into a deepening set of winners and losers, with workers of color, and particularly newcomers of color, being unable to gain a foothold that places them above the poverty line. We also believe that the ongoing neglect of US leadership to provide assistance to recognize foreign credentials, and simultaneously employers who do not recognize foreign experience, and coupled with the imperative for refugee newcomers to take the first job offered to them, creates an irrational policy and practice construct whereby newcomers cannot gain a fair start in the USA. When understanding why White newcomers are not so imperiled, we believe that white privilege protects them from the more dire realities of these policies and practices, while institutional racism narrows the chance of newcomers of color to get such a start.

Part of the reason there are deteriorating conditions are the result of national narratives about who refugees and immigrants are, and the impact of their presence in the USA. Many damaging discourses abound – and it is time for local leaders to understand the real facts behind these discourses, and to become equipped with the evidence that can dissolve these harmful ideas about newcomers. We urge all political leaders and policy makers to read the chapter on “Busting Myths about Newcomers” as essential preparation to being to unlearn what will have normally been infusing – often subconsciously – one’s perspectives of newcomers. At the root of these evidence is that newcomers are assets to the region, bringing experience, innovation, investment, job creation and problem solving abilities. If treated as assets, and meaningfully included in the fabric of the USA, the whole region will benefit. We have much to gain from the inclusion of newcomers: politically, economically, environmentally, intellectually and socially.

We are pleased that this report includes key insights into the lives of five newcomer communities: Indigenous Latinos, Iraqi, Iranian, Tongan and Somali. We aim for the assets of our newcomer communities to be understood. Each chapter has been crafted with the insights of community leaders, with at least four leaders interviewed for each chapter. The chapters intend to provide insights into the assets of each community, the conditions of their arrival and the culturally-informed recommendations for how the community prefers to be served in the areas of education, health and human services. We urge service providers of all types of supports to read these chapters to better understand community experiences. And we urge the same service providers to use this information as a base of understanding, fully recognizing that each individual is likely to diverge from their community’s narrative as much as they are likely to align with it. So please do not use these narratives in limiting ways, but rather to prepare providers to listen deeply to those who are being served.

The report closes with a moral and values-based call for political leaders to stand in solidarity with newcomers. Every political leader needs to proactively affirm that all newcomers are essential to the fabric that is Portland and Oregon. The community must be supported when it is treated in hostile ways, and must be defended when it is attacked, and must be proactively confirmed as legitimate Americans, fully entitled to fair and inclusive treatment. This is the core recommendation of the New Portlander Policy Council.

We also provide an expansive set of policy recommendations, which should be priority reading for all policy makers. In addition to the institutional reforms that are being advocated, there are a set of three Task Forces that are urged:

Task Force #1: Recognize Foreign Credentials

Task Force #2: Repairing the Cultural Bias in the Housing Code

Task Force #3: Law Enforcement Liaison Project

It is time for real inclusion and the extension of “a long welcome” for Portland’s newcomer communities. We urge policy makers to respond to the recommendations in this report, and work in partnership with the NPPC to establish priorities for action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: THE NEWCOMER COMMUNITY IN PORTLAND



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

AMANDA FRITZ, COMMISSIONER

Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director

Community & Neighborhood Involvement Center

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110

Portland, Oregon 97204

Promoting a culture of civic engagement

May 6, 2016

New Portlanders Policy Commission Proposal - DRAFT

Framing a transition of the existing New Portlanders Advisory Council (an advisory body to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement), to a citywide Policy Commission that would report to a Commissioner-in-charge and City Council.

Framing the need for immigrant integration

The current body, New Portlander Policy Council, is a working partnership of 24 mutual assistance associations (MAAs), five community-based organizations (CBOs), six City bureaus, and three elected leaders' staff, supported by New Portlander Programs staff.

This council was a response to recommendations produced by: The Mayor's Immigrant and Refugee Task Force (adopted by City Council 2008); the Coalition of Communities of Color/PSU Center to Advance Racial Equity (CARE), *Unsettling Profile Research Series* (adopted by City Council 2008 to 2014); the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization's *Community Needs Assessments* (2011 and 2014). These studies found stark disparities in educational, economic, family and community health, across all New Portlander communities, when compared to outcomes for settled Portlanders.

The 2014 New Portlander Policy Council's strategic plan recommended establishing a permanent, citywide immigrant and refugee policy commission that would, in partnership with City bureaus, provide immigrant integration policy and practice goals and systemic technical assistance to those bureaus.

A summary of the above is set out in the upcoming New Portlander Policy Council/PSU CARE report, *Portland's Newcomer Communities*, which will to be presented to City Council on May 26, 2016.

City policy priorities supporting a body formalizing immigrant integration

What follows are City of Portland policies presently guiding the New Portlander Council and the work of New Portlander Programs' partnerships with 13 City bureaus. These are also the City policy priorities that will provide institutional direction and financial support for immigrant integration policies across all City bureaus with the establishment of full New Portlander Policy Commission:

- 1. Recommendations of the Mayor's Immigrant and Refugee Task Force** (Adopted by City Council 2008). "By and large, the task force's recommendations have less to do with the provision of specific services than with establishing formal structures and opportunities" for a substantial population to integrate into the life of the City (1-in-5 Portlanders are foreign born and nearly half of PPS students are ethnic minorities, according to 2010 US Census Bureau ACS and PPS 2012 data, respectively).

2. The Portland Plan, Framework for Equity (2012). "All Portlanders (shall) have access to . . . safe neighborhoods, basic services . . . parks and greenspaces . . . decent housing." "All communities (shall) fully participate in and influence public decision-making." "Underrepresented communities (shall be) engaged partners in policy decisions."

3. Citywide Racial Equity Goals (2013). "Fairness in hiring and promotions, greater opportunities in contracting, and equitable services to all residents." "Strengthen outreach, public engagement, and access to City services . . . for immigrant and refugee communities."

4. City of Portland Public Involvement Principles (2010). Particularly the public involvement principles of: "Partnership;" Building Relationships and Community Capacity;" "Inclusiveness and Equity;" and "Accountability."

5. Bureaus policy commitments to public participation, inclusion, equity

Most if not all, bureaus delivering valuable City services, if inequitably, state commitments to civic engagement and equity.

Equity in Practice Partnerships

Based on the above five City policy commitments, our New Portlander Policy Council provides strategic development for 17 Equity and Practice Partnerships, involving 13 City Bureaus. These partnerships couple newcomer communities with City bureau staff to develop then deliver valuable City services in critically underserved neighborhoods. New Portlander Programs staff supports the bureaus (identified below) and the community groups partnering in the project:

Portland World Cup - Parks & Rec (also Fire & Rescue, Water, Office of Equity & Human Rights, Office of Neighborhood Involvement)

The annual soccer event that ends a season of youth career development and ambassadorship. It is a collaboration of local governments, immigrant and refugee communities, and local athletic businesses. Program staff received a 2015 Spirit of Portland Innovative City Leader Award.

Summer Mobile Playgrounds - Parks & Rec (also Office of Equity & Human Rights, Office of Neighborhood Involvement) Develops and delivers Summer Free-for-All resources for 15 summer mobile playground sites in underserved neighborhoods in East Portland.

Sunday Parkways – PBOT (also Parks, Police, Water, Office of Equity & Human Rights). PBOT partnerships with immigrant and refugee organizations to diversify participation in Portland Sunday Parkways. The project combined community policing and youth leadership goals of East Police Precinct, IRCO Asian Family Center and Africa House.

Safe Routes to School – PBOT (also PPB and FBI)

Facilitated partnership of Harrison Park School, APANO Jade District, *Chinese Times*, and Know Your City, in a student-led examination of most urgent safety

issues, development of a curriculum on civic action, and City Council presentation.

Safe Sidewalks - PBOT

Ongoing partnership with four outer East Portland immigrant mutual assistance associations, developing neighborhood safety assessments and community education. Follows immigrant pedestrian fatalities

Community Engagement Officer Program – Police, Central Precinct

City/community partnership developing culturally-specific policing practices and community policing agreements. Focus on four large-population communities and four vulnerable newcomer communities.

Community Policing Response Projects – Police, East Precinct (Also ONI

and BPS) Support effective Police Bureau response to critical public safety events, partnering with newcomer community leaders to turn crises into community-building opportunities. Recent examples include: response to major person-crimes; Chuuk national elections; soft-policing in apartment complexes; mutual assistance association trainings; IRCO and Catholic Charities resettlement workshops.

Portland Plan - Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Culturally-specific community education and engagement in the development of the Portland Plan.

2035 Comprehensive Plan - Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Five mutual assistance organizations worked with BPS to develop and deliver a community-specific education and engagement strategy.

Your Community Projects /Community Watershed Stewardship Program –

Bureau of Environmental Services. Annual partnerships between BES and newcomer communities Developed Equity model with BES staff, now used in training in conferences. Recipient of a 2015 Spirit of Portland, Equity in Practice Award.

Community Budget Forums – City Budget Office

Partnership of CBO and New Portlander Programs CELs (Community Engagement Liaison), organizing first immigrant and refugee communities' participation in annual City budget forums. Partnerships grew from 6 to 12 Portland ethnic groups over past three years.

Equity in Practice Partnerships – Currently in development

Bureau of Emergency Management

Two initiatives:

Immigrant and Refugee Community Outreach

Educating natural hazard information to non-English families.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee

Engaging New Portlanders in a City disaster master plan

Immigrant Houseless Assessment – Portland Housing Bureau

Developing partnerships with mutual assistance associations to assess accuracy of houseless counts, surveying doubling- and tripling-up of newcomer families as result of steep rental housing increases.

Disability Activists Academy – Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Developing partnerships with 10 mutual assistance associations, Multnomah County, and OHSU to survey service needs and recruit civic activists for disabled New Portlanders.

ONI/Elders in Action – New Portlander participation. Developing partnerships with 10 mutual assistance associations, to survey service needs and recruit civic activists for New Portlander elders.

ONI Crime Prevention Office – New Portlander neighborhood engagement. Training staff, developing culturally-effective practices for delivering this very valuable City service to underserved home-renters.

Why a Commission vs. a Council?

The New Portlanders Policy Council has identified many reasons supporting the transition from advisory council into a full Commission:

- A Commission communicates commitment to institutional engagement of newcomer communities in policy-making and service delivery.
- A City-wide commission (*cf.* a bureau advisory body) has the authority to advise all bureaus and elected officials.
- A Commission established by City ordinance provides greater permanence amidst changes in leadership, and stability of funding for staff and operating costs.
- Regular collaboration with bureau management will better leverage the leadership, expertise, and resources of Portland's newcomer organizations.
- The Commission status will improve the recruitment and retention of strong and engaged community leaders.

Commission Structure**Membership**

Up to 25 voting members will serve on the Commission, with representation from the following groups:

- local immigrant and refugee community service providers and other resettlement and integration organizations (12 seats)
- mutual assistance association representatives (13 seats)

In addition, City bureau staff may be appointed as non-voting members, with one designated representative per City bureau.

Recruitment and Selection

- Members are recommended by the Commissioner-in-Charge of the bureau or office staffing the New Portlander Policy Commission and approved by City Council.

- Upcoming vacancies will be announced each July for new terms beginning in September.
- Members will be recruited from mutual assistance organizations and immigrant and refugee service providers to fill corresponding seats.
- City Bureau staff may be appointed to the Commission as non-voting members. The Director of each participating bureau is responsible for recommending a staff member for appointment.

Term Limits

One, two and three-year terms will be staggered for the first Commission. Commissioners may serve no more than two terms.

Staff Support

The Commission is staffed by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. A dedicated, full-time staff member will support the New Portlander Policy Commission in helping to advance its mission and goals. This work includes outreach, recruitment, policy research, logistical support, organizational and relationship development.

Core Responsibilities of the Commission

The Commission's purpose is to advise City Council on policies and practices to integrate immigrant and refugee communities' assets and urgencies into the delivery of City services; and to integrate newcomer communities into City decision-making processes. The Commission will maintain the following responsibilities:

- Propose, develop, evaluate and refine policy and practice recommendations for improving immigrant and refugee community integration to City Council offices and City bureaus ; reporting directly to the commissioner-in-charge, and City Council;
- Propose, develop, evaluate and refine working partnerships between City leaders and newcomer community leadership;
- Provide a forum for collaboratively setting integration goals between City bureaus and newcomer community organizations;
- Consult with other local governments and schools, state and federal agencies, on policies impacting New Portlander communities, as capacity allows
- Provide an annual report to City Council on integration policy and integration practice outcomes;
- Engage in the City's annual budget process

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City of Portland, Oregon
Immigrant and Refugee Policy Commission

OR

City of Portland, Oregon
New Portlander Policy Commission

City of Portland, Oregon New Portlander Commission

Charter and Protocols

Commission Background

The City of Portland's New Portlander Commission was established on November __, 2015 by resolution of the Portland City Council.

The City of Portland is recognized as an American gateway city. Today, approximately 1-in-5 Portlanders are foreign born. Because America is an immigrant nation, and Portland is a gateway to global movements of families, capital, and products, all indicators are that the numbers New Portlanders will increase.

The New Portlander Commission is a response to recommendations made by numerous previous Portland initiatives, including the Mayor's Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, adopted by City Council in 2008; the Coalition of Communities of Color, *Unsettling Profile Research Series* (2010 to 2014); the Immigrant and Refugee Community of Oregon, *Community Needs Assessments* (2011 and 2014) the New Portlander Policy Council's 2014 Strategic Plan. These community-based, and City bureau partnered, efforts recommended the creation of an institutional body to improve consistency and accountability of our City's immigrant and refugee communities engagement and integration policies, programs, and practices.

The Commission incorporates 30 years of accumulated community-based experience, leadership, immigrant and refugee service assets into City of Portland leadership.

Mission

Institutionalizing the City of Portland's commitment to integrating immigrant and refugee communities into the life of the City, by adopting policies and recommending practices that assist City bureaus in creating consistent expectations and processes.

New Portlander Commission Reports

New Portlander Commission (referred to here as NP Commission) is a standing advisory commission accountable to the Portland City Council. City Council appoints and commissions City policy advisory board members. New Portlander Commissioners are "public officials," and NP Commission sessions are "public meetings." NP Commission findings and recommendations are subject to City Council approval and adoption. NP Commission will provide annual reports to City Council.

NP Commission Scope of Work

- Review and refine past recommendations on immigrant and refugee community integration policies and practices.
- Develop for City Council, policy and practice recommendations for improving immigrant and refugee community integration.
- Provide expert support and technical advice to City Council and City bureaus.
- Provide expert support and technical advice to local, state, and federal agencies, partnering for comprehensive immigrant and refugee policies and practices.

NP Commission Composition and Membership

NP Commission is composed of delegates of immigrant and refugee community service providers, mutual assistance associations, City staff, and other resettlement and integration organizations. NP Commissioners work collaboratively with NP Commissioners, City Commissioners, and City bureaus in developing and advocating for, policies and practices improving immigrant and refugee community integration into our city's mainstream.

NP Commission's minimum is 24, and its maximum is 34 members. NP Commissioners are appointed by the City Commissioner in charge of the Office of Equity and Human Rights upon recommendation of the director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and after approval by City Council, for their demonstrated expert knowledge and practice in immigrant or refugee community resettlement and integration, or for their demonstrated expert knowledge and practice in government or school programs serving immigrant or refugee community resettlement and integration.

Two and three year community and government terms stagger NP Commission membership. NP Commissioners serve for no more than two terms. Members seeking reappointment must request reappointment.

City bureau delegates are recruited based on the value of their bureaus services to the successful civic engagement and social integration of immigrant and refugee families and communities. City bureau delegates are asked to confirm their management support for serving mission and the scope of the NP Commission.

NP Commissioners are asked to appoint similarly experienced delegates for NP Commission sessions or working committees, to ensure that the absent NP Commissioner's interests and expertise are represented in his or her absence.

NP Commissioner Selection Process

The New Portlander Commission's executive committee and staff coordinator ensure that membership is composed of approximately one-third each, delegates of community based organizations; MAAs (mutual assistance associations); and local, state, and federal agencies.

Interim vacancies are announced in January and interim commissioners are recruited to fill the balance of the unexpired term. Upcoming vacancies will be announced each July, with terms beginning in September. A selection committee consisting of three groups set out above, will review applications and forward recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. The Commissioner-in-Charge will make final selections, appointments will be confirmed by City Council.

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement provides an FTE staff and an adequate operating budget to advance the NP Commission's mission and scope of work.

NP Commission Officers and Committees

The NP Commission has an immigrant and a refugee co-chair. NP Commission officers, full session and working committee protocols, are set out in the approved NP Commission By-Laws.

The NP Commission authorizes an executive committee that includes delegates from community based organizations, MAAs, and government. The executive committee meets to facilitate the work of the Commission, and is authorized to make only those decisions delegated to it by the full Commission.

NP Commission has four standing committees

- Commission Development Committee
- Policy Advocacy Committee
- Community Research Committee
- Bureau Technical Assistance Committee

The NP Commission executive committee can authorize *ad hoc* working committees

NP Commission Decision Making

In developing policy and practice recommendations for City Council, the NP Commission will work by consensus decision-making, a method of finding accord through substantial, though not necessarily unanimous agreement.

If group consensus is not possible, the NP Commission can authorize decisions by a two-thirds majority vote. In the case of a majority vote, the Commission will accept minority reports to be submitted and included in meeting notes. The Commission will ensure a balanced representation

of community based organizations, mutual assistance association, and government perspectives when voting and consensus processes are conducted. Only NP Commissioners and proxies (with their Commissioners written authority) are entitled engage in consensus decision-making and in voting.

A quorum is required to conduct City business and make official decisions. NP Commission or executive committee quorum is 50% plus one.

Frequency of NP Commission Meetings

The full NP Commission meets at City Hall quarterly on the last Thursday of the month from 4 to 6pm, unless otherwise notified. Meeting time will be posted at [New Portlander Programs website](#). Commission meetings are public and will provide a set amount of time during each meeting for public comment.

NP Commission Executive Committee meets monthly on the last Thursday of the month from 4 to 6pm, unless otherwise notified. Meeting location will revolve to the offices of Executive Committee members.

NP Commissioner Time Commitments

NP Commissioners (and/or delegates) are required to attend all quarterly 2-hour meetings where local policy leaders will be addressed by the NP Commission, and when committee work-products are presented and approved. Two absences, with proxies, are permitted. One absence without commissioner or proxy is allowed. Absences above these maximums will be referred for action to the Executive Committee, then if deemed necessary, be referred to the Mayor who may revoke PIAC membership with confirmation of City Council.

All NP Commissioners are expected to commit an hour per week to NP Commission communications; Committee members are expected to commit four hours per month to meetings and meeting preparation. NP Commissioners are expected to serve on at least one working committee.