

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Appoint Ahmed Al zubidi, Mohamad Bader, Blanca Gaytan Farfan, Bernal Cruz Muñoz, and Salome Nanyenga to the New Portlanders Policy Commission for a 3-year term expiring November 21, 2022 (Report).

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Presenter name: Linda Castillo. Office of Community & Civic Life

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

To appoint Ahmed Al zubidi, Mohamad Bader, Blanca Gaytan Farfan, Bernal Cruz Muñoz, and Salome Nanyenga to the New Portlanders Policy Commission for a 3-year term expiring November 21, 2022.

Pursuant to Portland City Code and Ordinance 3.131, the Commissioner -in-Charge of the New Portlander's Policy Commission, in this case, Commissioner Eudaly recommends, the Mayor will nominate and the City Council approves members to the Commission. Members shall be appointed to provide representation from reasonably broad spectrum of immigrant and refugee communities, striving to include a range of areas of expertise, advocacy, experience, community involvement, profession, education, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion and geographic identification. The Commission consists of 25 voting members who have had staggered 2- and 3-year terms. Since their appointment in 2016, there are currently 7 open seats due to resignations or term end dates. The appointment of the current 5 nominees will bring the Commission table to 23 members. Recruitment for additional New Portlanders Policy Commissions will resume in the first quarter of 2020.

The Commission is comprised of individuals who live, work, pray, and/or study in the City of Portland jurisdiction. The additional appointments will support the Commission in its mission to advise the City on policies and practices to integrate immigrant and refugee community voices and needs into the provision of City services, City decision -making and civic engagement in Portland, and seek constructive relationships with each member of Council and the City Auditor.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There are no fiscal or budgetary impacts.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The Commission's purpose is to 1) review, develop, evaluate and refine policy and practices recommendations for improving immigrant and refugee community integration in all City activities, 2) facilitate constructive working partnerships between City leaders and new comer community leadership, 3) provide a forum for setting integration goals between

City bureaus and community organizations, 4) provide technical assistance and policy advice to City Council offices and City bureaus, 5) serve as consultant and advocate to local, state, and federal agencies on policies impacting immigrant and refugee communities, as capacity allows, 6) provide a report to City Council on policy and practice outcomes on an annual basis, and 7) engage in the City's annual budget process. This focus, perspective and experience benefit the City in that it elevates its racial equity goals and strategies, with specific recommendations, solutions, and strategies as to ways in which to integrate immigrant and refugee communities into the City of Portland programs and structures.

In this recent New Portlanders Policy commissioner recruitment process, staff worked with immigrant and refugee, Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community organizations and individuals. Community leaders invited staff to share the recruitment information and process with community serving staff. These staff, in turn, provided referrals and collaborated in contacting and encouraging community members to apply. Community members were involved in the recruitment interview and selection process. Candidate recommendations were forwarded to the Suk Rhee, Community and Civic Life bureau director and Commissioner Eudaly to make final nominations for appointment.

100% Renewable Goal:

Not applicable.

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

Ahmed Al zubidi is a School District Community Liaison for the Arabic community. As a refugee, he has utilized his skills in case management, interpretation, and coaching within refugee resettlement programs such as IRCO and Catholic Charities. He is a community leader in the Arabic community, founder of the Arabic House and a member of the parent advisory committee in his children's school. He is a graduate of the PILOT and BOLD leadership programs and is well known as bridge builder and community collaborator. For 8 years, he served as a senior correspondent with the US Army in Bagdad.

Mohamad Bader arrived in the US in 1986 from Palestine and is a founding board member of Jerusalem-Israel. As a volunteer, he engages Arabic speaking Muslims through his connection with local community organizations. As a licensed professional counselor, he is trained to listen well. He currently serves as Deputy Director for the Department of County Human Services. He has significant experience leading developmental disabilities and adult protective services programs. He is published writer and poet.

Blanca Gaytan Farfan arrived in the US from Michoacán, Mexico at the age of five. She graduated from Warner Pacific University with a background in history, political science, and sociology due to her interest in learning more about government functions, how policies affect individuals, and how to engage with government to benefit communities to educate jurisdictions on community needs and issues. She has recently served on the Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC), the official youth policy body for the City of Portland and Multnomah County. She served as a volunteer with MYC for three years. At present, she serves in the Office of Diversity and Equity and the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) at Multnomah County.

Bernal Cruz Muñoz came from war torn Guatemala, in 1990, and identifies as a refugee and immigrant. He attended high school in Portland and received an undergraduate degree in neuropsychology from the University of Massachusetts, obtained a master's degree in Social work from Portland State University, and post graduate certificate from Harvard Medical School in Global Mental Health, Refugee Trauma and Recovery. He serves as Advisory Council President of RISE, a program serving refugees with disabilities and Vice President of RAIN, an international institute for Human Rights and Migration. He works as case coordinator for the unaccompanied children program to offer child welfare-based recommendations for minors in the care of the Federal government.

Salome Nanyenga is the interim operations manager and social worker at IRCO/Africa House. She has worked as an anti-poverty case manager, housing stability and safety coordinator and recently received her BA in Social Work from Portland State University. As a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she understands the challenges communities struggle with and has informed solutions and practices to address these challenges. She is a volunteer on the St. Phillip Neri Advisory Board.

I approve each of the above appointments to the New Portlanders Policy Commission for a 3-year term.

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Date