

Sankar Raman, Portland City Hall, December 4, 2019

Members of the Portland City Council, Mayor Wheeler, and the residents of the great city of Portland,

As with the general adage that *everyone looking to make a new life migrates west*, I, too, arrived in Portland to work in its great, state-of-the-art, technology company, Intel

Just like any other immigrant, I worked hard. I wanted to make this industry the best of the best in the world.

I have lived here for a long time now — long enough to have seen the good and the bad.

I have mourned the death of loved ones. I got married. I even got to see my son attend his high school prom, graduate, and start a career of his own.

I have had many rites of passage.

Yes, this is my home now. And I am not going anywhere.

Prior to the 2016 presidential election, I never felt the need to talk about my professional qualifications or to provide a rationale for my existence or a justification for my belonging in Portland

But the recent political climate changed all that.

When the political rhetoric began to deliberately target immigrants for political gains; when this rhetoric inspired actual government policies that

affected immigrants and refugees; when the divisive talk began to embolden people to go to places of worship with a gun and shoot to kill ...

I needed to do something. Anything. I couldn't just sit idly by and watch it all happen.

So, I started a project to tell the stories of immigrants and refugees. The goal: to create empathy so that, eventually, we could perhaps create a community of *inclusion*, one in which we recognize that we all share a common humanity.

At The Immigrant Story, we believe that stories can bring our community together. We also believe in creating conversations on important topics. We do this by bringing our stories to public spaces in order to ensure that we can demonstrate how deeply we care about this very core value: the diversity of our citizens.

That is why I wanted to thank you for hosting this public display at the very center of our community. When you share these stories, you change the narrative of this country.

At The Immigrant Story, we believe that we are telling these stories to change the world, one story at a time.

During this holiday season, if you want to give, please keep organizations like The Immigrant Story in mind. Support these organizations; there are so many, and they do tremendous and important work, bringing attention to these issues.

If you're in need of a New Year's resolution, think about your neighbors, and become a voice for those who do not have one.

If you are in a position of authority, pledge to consider diversity as a value and not merely some goal to hit or some number to meet.

My point is reflected in a quote from the author Libba Bray:

“That is how change happens: One gesture. One person. One moment at a time.”

Thank you very much AND Please keep Portland Diverse and Welcoming!

From: Amelia Salvador
To: Moore-Love, Karla; Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: [User Approved] Fwd: Request: Public Testimony
Date: Friday, October 4, 2019 8:47:30 AM
Attachments: image004.png

Begin forwarded message:

From: <sankar@theimmigrantstory.org>
Date: October 3, 2019 at 8:15:16 PM PDT
To: "Amelia Salvador" <amelia.salvador@me.com>, <karla.more-love@portlandoregon.gov>, <keelan.mcclymont@portlantoregon.gov>
Cc: "JJOE ROSSI" <jjoerossi@mac.com>
Subject: RE: Request: Public Testimony

I confirm that I can speak at the city hall.

With kind regards,
Sankar



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From: Amelia Salvador <amelia.salvador@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2019 3:07 PM
To: karla.more-love@portlandoregon.gov; keelan.mcclymont@portlantoregon.gov
Cc: Sankar Raman <sankar@theimmigrantstory.org>; JJOE ROSSI <jjoerossi@mac.com>
Subject: Request: Public Testimony

Afternoon Karla and Keelan,

Please see attached completed form for communication request.

1st Date Choice: 12/18/19
2nd Date Choice: 12/11/19

Please confirm 1 of the 3 allotted time slots for myself, Amelia Salvador.

I've cc'd Sankar Raman and Joe Rossi, so they may email you direct to confirm their time slots; as required.

@Sankar @Joe - If you could both respond with your confirmation to speak publicly for the allotted 3 minutes.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to speak before Counsel to announce our annual award recipient of the Portland Immigrant Statue.

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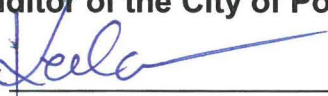
Request of Sankar Raman to address Council regarding announcement of the annual award recipient of the Portland Immigrant Statue (Communication)

DEC 04 2019

PLACED ON FILE

NOV 25 2019

Filed
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		