

May 2020

New Portlanders Speak 2.1: COVID-19 Update



NPPC COVID-19 Response Update

Office of Community & Civic Life

City of Portland

Background and Context

The New Portlanders Policy Commission (NPPC) had its annual retreat on February 29th, 2020 to refresh and reconnect as a body, review its vision and mission, and prepare for the next phase of commission work. Shortly after, everything abruptly changed with the rise of COVID-19 cases in Oregon. NPPC members quickly convened and adapted their plans to respond to the changing circumstances.

Members of the NPPC belong to communities which represent the many streams of ethnic and cultural backgrounds of Immigrants and Refugees in the Portland area. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt immediately, and immigrants and refugees continue to experience some of the greatest inequities during this crisis. For example, a [recent article by the Oregonian](#) revealed that Oregon's Latinx population is disproportionately hit the hardest during this pandemic.

NPPC's COVID-19 Response

As commissioners who have ties to immigrant and refugee communities, the NPPC is well positioned to identify and recommend solutions to some of the greatest needs that have emerged during the height of the pandemic, and that will continue to surface during the recovery phase.

NPPC determined that their best role is to elevate immigrant and refugee voices and perspectives in city decision making, bureau workgroups, and advisory bodies around COVID-19 policy changes and relief packages by expressing immediate community needs (food, health care, etc.) and weighing in on solutions within those decision-making bodies.

Some of those needs are highlighted in the table below:

Immigrant & Refugee Community Needs & NPPC Action Items

Community Needs	NPPC Action Items
Understand state/county/city policy changes and how it impacts daily life. Example: Executive orders, eviction moratoriums, small business relief efforts	Share available State, County, City resources within community networks.
ONE STOP place with resources lists available in multiple languages that are simple and easy to understand.	- Civic Life staff share a resource email each week to NPPC for members to share with their network. - Collaborate with and provide feedback to the city's ECC to improve language access.

Aid for low-wage unemployed workers that are ineligible for certain benefits due to immigration status.	Support the Oregon Worker Relief Fund campaign
Have a voice and a seat on decision making bodies regarding immigrant & refugee needs and how to solve them	NPPC representatives participate in Prosper Portland workgroups, city council community calls, Oregon Health Authority debriefings, and other policy related opportunities
Safety for our communities subject to hate crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bring it to the OEHR attention for Know Your Rights information -Propose City Council to take a resolution defending rights and condemning attacks -Connect with PUAH for tracking and following up on hate incidents

Recommendations to Portland City Council

The NPPC endorsed the following two policy recommendations for council's consideration:

1. Invest city dollars in the Oregon Workers Relief Fund.

Immigrant and Refugee communities are one of the pillars of the social and economic fabric of Portland. They continue to put their lives on the line to conduct essential jobs as farm workers, construction workers, health care workers, small business owners, and more. Yet, the Federal Economic Stimulus package will not benefit many of these workers and their families due to their immigration status.

We recommend that the City of Portland contribute to the Oregon Workers Relief Fund, a rapid community-based system that provides financial relief to Oregonians that cannot access public benefits. The Oregon Worker Relief Fund will replace up to 60% of lost wages for Oregonians who, due to their or a family member's immigration status, are disqualified from receiving Unemployment Insurance or stimulus benefits. We recommend, that City Council advises in the implementation and distribution process of the fund using an equity lens and cultural sensitivity and make it accessible to those who are most in need and are facing greatest economic hardship.

We want to thank the Portland City Council for recently approving \$250,000 for the Oregon Workers Relief Fund. This is a good start; however, the need is significant. We support the recommendations provided by the Undocumented Portlanders Workgroup, which recommends that each local jurisdiction seek to contribute a minimum of \$2 Million immediately. This would help stabilize local families at a time when they most need it and fill the gaps of available resources we are seeing right

now in the community. Without these funds, Portland area families are facing dire conditions, including lack of food, the inability to pay for housing and immediate essential costs of living.

2. Pass a resolution to condemn the rise in hate crimes, attacks and attitudes against Asian Pacific Islander (API) Communities due to the racist manipulation and politization of the COVID-19 crisis

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the United States, API community leaders have noticed increased reports of racially-based hate crimes against Asian Americans spurred on by reference to the virus as "Chinese Virus," "Wuhan Virus," and "Kung Flu," in place of the scientific name for the virus. Asian Americans are being scapegoated due to fear and uncertainties caused by a lack of national leadership. Asians are being labeled as dirty and uncivilized based on cultural stereotypes. Yet, Asian Americans are no more likely to be carriers of COVID-19 than any other Americans.

It's important for local and state leaders to speak out against these negative stereotypes. We thank the Portland City Council for taking an initial step, in partnership with APANO, by providing small grants to Jade District businesses that suffered a decline in business during the early stages of COVID-19. In addition, we acknowledge and thank the council for investing in [Portland United Against Hate](#), which continues to provide critical resources in addressing hate. We recommend the Portland City Council continue to show support by passing a resolution that denounces the surge in attacks against Asian Americans, in addition to continuing to support the community during council's ongoing considerations of future policy and budget changes.

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 Agenda No.
REPORT
 Title

Accept report of the New Portlanders Policy Commission COVID-19 (Report)

<p style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Commissioner Eudaly</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>5/26/20</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u>Keelan McClymont</u> <small>Digitally signed by Keelan McClymont Date: 2020.05.26 13:35:58 -0700</small> Deputy</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 3, 2020 Rescheduled to date to be determined June 24, 2020 Accepted</p>
<p>Mayor—Finance & Administration - Wheeler</p>	
<p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p>	
<p>Position 2/Works - Vacant</p>	
<p>Position 3/Affairs - Hardesty</p>	
<p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly <u>Jamey Duhamel</u> <small>Digitally signed by Jamey Duhamel Date: 2020.05.26 09:13:37 -0700</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">BUREAU APPROVAL</p>	
<p>Bureau: Office of Community and Civic Life Bureau Head: <u>Suk Rhee</u> <small>Digitally signed by Suk Rhee Date: 2020.05.26 09:22:46 -0700</small></p>	
<p>Prepared by: Touk Keo, Marco Mejia Yopez, and Andrea Williams Date Prepared: <u>4/20/20</u></p>	
<p>Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p>	
<p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p>	
<p>Council Meeting Date <u>6/3/20</u></p>	

AGENDA
<p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Start time: <u>9:45am</u> Total amount of time needed: <u>45</u> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>
<p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of time needed: _____ (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
		YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	✓	
2. Vacant	2. Vacant		
3. Hardesty	3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly	✓	
Wheeler	Wheeler	✓	