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Commission consists of 25 voting members who have had staggered 2- and 3-year terms. Since their appointment in 2016, there are currently 10 open seats due to resignations or term end dates. The appointment of the current 9 nominees will bring the Commission table to 24 members.

The selection process was administered utilizing best practices of the Office of Community & Civic Life's Advisory Bodies program. The selection committee utilized the Advisory Bodies recruitment process, including posting a public call for applications on NeoGov. A total of 45 applications were received. Selection Committee members reviewed applications and interviewed potential candidates over several months.

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.

Below are the bios of the 9 nominees.

**Erik Ruiz** is a second generation American, whose parents migrated from the Philippines. He was born and raised in Hawaii and considers his ethnicity to reflect the backgrounds he was raised in (Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese). He served as a loan underwriter and credit counselor at a credit union. He identifies as a gay man, for what he has experienced bullying and sexual harassment, but used this experience to help others find a path forward and raise their voice. Erick has been involved with multicultural workgroups, and especially with LGBTQ organizations working on marriage equality related issues, in particular and fighting for social justice in general.

**Hussein Idow** is a young African refugee who understands the struggles and challenges of African refugees and immigrants. He has experience working on Community Advocacy, Civic Engagement, Resettlement, and community integration. Hussein has worked as youth and family advocate with IRCO, and now he is the Executive Director of African Refugee Immigrant Organization (ARIO) in Portland. He also has experience working as community health worker, substance abuse counselor, family navigator, online family tracing officer, and as a youth empowerment and rehabilitation officer.

**Nabin Dhimal** is a Nepali refugee. He is deeply connected with local organizations such as the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Unite Oregon, Latino Network, and Catholic Charities, Community Organizing, Resettlement and integration expertise, Education expertise, Civic Engagement, Community Advocacy. Currently he is IRCO's School Linked Youth Academic Program coordinator. He participated in Unite Oregon's Pan-Immigrant Leadership and Organizing Training (PILOT). As a community leader and employee, he has demonstrated commitment to racial equity to foster an inclusive and equitable society.

**Mia Sabanovic** is a refugee from Bosnia, in 1995 she escaped with her family the genocide in Bosnia and immigrated to Portland. Mia has worked on Resettlement and integration, Civic Engagement, and Community Advocacy. Mia is a Civil Engineer graduate at Portland State University and for the past 15 years has been working for the City of Portland. Mia served on the Islamic Bosnians Educational & Cultural Organization - IBECO leadership board and has also volunteered with the Muslim Educational Trust (MET), and participated with the Woman in Leadership conferences to commemorate March 8th (International Women's Day) encouraging Muslim women to step into leadership roles. For the past 18 months Mia has been volunteering on the Portland Utility Board which provides advise to the Portland Water Bureau and the Bureau of Environmental services on issues that impact our communities.

**Vania Lucio-Mancilla** is an immigrant woman who came to the United States at the age of four, Vania has had firsthand experience of the life and struggles of immigrant communities, including housing insecurity, job instability, racism, xenophobia and navigating oppressive institutions. At the same time Vania had the opportunity to deal with these oppressions through her professional work and her community organizing experiences. As a mentor at Roosevelt High School in North Portland, she was given the opportunity to work with immigrant and refugee parents and leaders in the community, they helped understand the different and often intersectional issues that impact our communities. Through Vania's current role as an organizer at Unite Oregon she has been addressing immigrant and refugee community needs, at PSU, Vania advocated for DACA as an undocumented student, working on a proposal for the establishment of a Dreamer's Resource Center on campus.

**Rama Youssef** fled the Syrian war in 2012 and resided in the US since. She has been doing immigrant and refugee work and learned how to navigate and take advantage of possible resources available for people like her such as scholarships, and funding. Rama volunteered at a variety of institutions throughout High School and college. One of her volunteer experiences was working for the Syrian American Medical Society as a community outreach at the Rose Haven Shelter, and also had the opportunity to give community talks to empower and encourage young women to advocate for themselves.

**Jessica Marks** has worked primarily in the field of refugee resettlement and forced displacement, and most recently, she is the founder and Executive Director of USAHello, a nonprofit that provides online education, resources, and information for over a million newcomers per year. Jessica learned that Immigrant and refugee experiences were vastly different, and to build policies that support newcomers, we must understand their unique diverse experiences. Her work with diverse groups began 15 years ago, after completing a year as an AmeriCorps Vista. More recently, Jessica has worked as a consultant at Slalom, leading DEI and working with clients to help them develop long term strategies to build more inclusive workforces and to teach (especially white) clients how to talk about race and social identities and how to facilitate inclusive meetings.

**Massarra Eiwaz-Ransom** is a refugee from Iraq, she has been for long time connected to the Iraqi community and other refugee communities through her personal and professional life, as a

student faced the struggles of language barriers, cultural differences, being not heard, being a minority, and fear when experiencing racism and discrimination. Massarra experienced the public-school education system, college, and graduate school as a refugee, and lived through the struggles of the burden of always trying to prove herself to others. Through her professional life, Massarra works as a Traditional Health Worker Liaison with a Coordinated Care Organization and is in constant connection with refugee and immigrant communities as well as community-based organizations who provide services to diverse communities. She also worked at Lutheran Community Services NW(LCSNW) as a Mental Health Case Manager and helped establish a community based Iraqi women's group.

**Victor Tran**, is a second-generation member of an East Asian family; his father was a refugee from the Vietnam War. Personal and familial history has taught Victor to see cities and urban spaces as crucial contributors to health and well-being. He is connected to the East Portland Community, and often attend events hosted by APANO. Victor is an urban planner and has often been working with diverse stakeholder groups sharing and gathering information. In 2018 he worked with the Quinault Indian Nation making a tsunami preparedness document, this project won the OAPA Student Achievement Award in 2018.

#### **Community impacts and community involvement:**

In this recent New Portlanders Policy Commission recruitment process, Civic Life staff worked with immigrant and refugee, Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community organizations and individuals to shape the criteria, recruitment, and selection process. The selection committee was made up of 6 members of the New Portlanders Policy Commission. The request for applications posting was shared broadly with NPPC members and with their community networks. NPPC members provided referrals and collaborated in contacting and encouraging community members to apply. Community members were involved in the recruitment interview and selection process.

#### **100% Renewable Goal:**

Not applicable.

#### **Financial and budgetary impacts:**

There are no fiscal or budgetary impacts.

### **Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

#### **Does this action change appropriations?**

- ☐ **YES**      Please complete the information below.
- ☒ **NO**      You can skip this section