



"Our Strength is in Our Diversity"

Benjamin T. Opara, Chair
Elinor Mondale, Secretary
Rev. Cecilio Hernández
Robert Gignac (School Committee)
Way Sai Kyi
Kate Lessard
Donna McIntosh
Vesna Nuon (City Councillor)
Joseph Varnie
Metrey Keo
Philippe Candido
Sarah Golding

LOWELL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2013

The Commission met at 5:30 in the City Manager's office.

Present: Benjamin T. Opara (Chair), Elinor Mondale (Secretary), Philippe D. Candido, Robert Gignac, Metrey Keo, Way Sai Kyi, Donna McIntosh.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Donna gave Opening thoughts. The minutes of September 18 were accepted unanimously.

The names of members of the Search Committee for the police superintendent were announced:

Bernie Lynch, City Manager

Tom Moses, CFO

Mary Callery, HR Director

Christine O'Connor, City solicitor

Lynda Clark, Exec. Asst. to the CM

The City Manager said that there were six internal candidates and ten from other areas. The City Manager is meeting with a variety of groups throughout the city in order to get their concerns.

Metrey suggested that they get someone familiar with immigrant groups. Philippe expressed concern about undocumented immigrants needing drivers licenses. Ben and Elinor both expressed a commitment to diversity within the city while Way said that more cultural diversity is needed within the police force.

It was agreed that more community outreach is needed and more people from minority groups should be encouraged to take the police tests.



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Ben said he would post the Mission statement on Googlegroups.

Elinor asked about influencing the RMV to permit interpreters so non-English speakers could get driver licenses more easily. The CM agreed to pursue this.

Robert said he would draft a letter to temples in the city asking for a chance to explain the purpose of the Commission.

Philippe said he would establish a Facebook page for the Commission if everyone would send he a photo and short bio.

Metrey and Philippe both spoke about a fund raiser for CMAA on November 2,

The next meeting will be on November 18 at 5:30.

Submitted by;

Elinor Mondale, Secretary