



**City of Bellingham**  
**Immigration Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
August 17, 2021, 6:30 PM

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

**Board Members**

*Present:*

Liz Darrow

Holly Pai

John Baker

Maria Isabel Cortes-Zamora

Ada Rumford

Monika Cassidy

Marciano Sanchez Lopez

*Absent:*

Australia Tobon

Danielle Siedlecki

Ramon Barba Torres

Bridget Reeves

*Spanish Interpretation:* Martha Sabalsa

*Russian Interpretation:* Alfia Logunova

*Punjabi Interpretation:* Ekinderjit "Piku" Dhillon

*City Council Staff:* Nalini Margaitis

**There is an audio/ video recording of this meeting. Times in brackets [] indicate the start time on the recording for each section. See <https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials> to listen to the recording.**

**Welcome, and Board Business [00:011]**

- Nalini Margaitis welcomed the group.
- Nalini Margaitis facilitated this meeting.
- Minutes for the July 20, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

**Public Comment [16:56-51:15]**

### **Co-facilitator Announcement [52:43]**

- Nalini shared that there are now three facilitators: Liz Darrow, Ada Rumford, and Danielle Siedlecki

### **Board Member Response and Commitment to follow up [54:09]**

- Liz Darrow responded to public comment: the FAQ on the IAB website is public comment, funding for Immigration Resource Center is yet to be determined, a sub-committee will be meeting with the Mayor in September, the intention is to establish a city-funded entity (with respect to the Immigrant Resource Center), office of enforcement with the AGs office (meeting has been set up) and hopeful to gain response prior to the next meeting re federal contact data, thanked those who urged a racial justice focus, border patrol is in addition to ICE, applications and a promise for appointees on August 30<sup>th</sup> to the IAB (to fill the vacancies)
- Monika Cassidy responded that she has directly experienced trauma from border patrol and that the IAB consists of people who are knowledgeable about these issues
- Ada Rumford added that this Board is moving in the direction to become more cohesive

### **Review of Federal Contacts Data [1:09:30]**

- Liz Darrow pointed out the notable frequency with which CBP Dispatch calls COB & they are calling about specific things (which they are not supposed to be calling about) – the AG needs to follow up on this (e.g. welfare check domestic call); a second alarming item where a drug dog was called in (why does COB not use their dogs?); Liz urged that members of the community write directly to the Mayor; Holly and Liz suggested meeting quarterly with the Mayor about these issues
- Monika Cassidy commented that she cannot wait until the response from the AG & asked if the BPD has a translator (language exchange?), stressing that language access is very important.
- Liz Darrow volunteered to follow-up on the questions that she brought forward

### **Language Access (Ada Rumford) [1:18:30]**

- After attending a webinar on language access (by the City of Seattle), Ada Rumford shared her notes from the webinar
- Goal: to create equitable distribution of information regardless of English proficiency; establish formal processes so that , as the City grows, policy and budget are created in a more inclusive manner (perhaps a part of an immigrant resource center?)
- Ada Rumford will initially look at the data (what languages are spoken, etc.) and understand information access
- It is suggested that tiers are set up (e.g. based on communication and current accessibility – e.g. tsunami pamphlet vs City park pamphlet)
- Suggestion: translate the IAB page of the City website (and eventually all pages of the City website)

- Liz Darrow mentioned that this would be a good thing to craft for the City (she also mentioned the multi-lingual packet in the medical office related to an ICE response)

**Outreach Campaign (Ada Rumford) [1:30:30]**

- A short survey asking the community, “what can we focus on?” “What are your concerns?”
- Ada Rumford shared a potential flyer encouraging immigrant community members to participate in IAB meetings

**Community Outreach (Ada Rumford) [1:30:33]**

- Surveying the public with the main question, “what can we focus on?” (survey to be translated to multiple languages)
- Zoom display: “Effect Positive Change in Your Community” flyer (encouraging the immigrant community to participate in IAB meetings)
- Public comment: mail video, comments, etc. to: [immigrationboard@cob.org](mailto:immigrationboard@cob.org), mail to: 210 Lottie St c/o Immigration Advisory Board Bellingham WA 98225

**Subcommittee Reports [1:45:19]**

- IRC group: meeting with the Mayor in September (report back next month)
- Follow up to City Council letter (report back next month)

**The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM**

**Recordings of this meeting with additional details of discussion is posted at:**

<https://cob.org/gov/public/bc/immigration-advisory-board-materials>