## STAFF REPORT

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda Items:** | 6 & 7  | **Name:** | Miranda Leskinen |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2021-02152021-0227 | **Date:** | August 18, 2021 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motions to confirm the Executive’s appointments of the following persons to the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission:

* Juanita Salinas-Aguila, who resides in Council District Five, for a partial term expiring September 30, 2022[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Bilan Aden, who resides in Council District Eight, for a partial term expiring September 30, 2021[[2]](#footnote-2)

**BACKGROUND**

In 2018, the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission was established by Ordinance 18653 (codified as King County chapter 2.78) to serve as a central point of contact, communication and coordination to encourage coordination and efficient intersection of the work of stakeholders serving and engaging immigrant and refugee residents to achieve greater impact. The Commission also focuses on understanding and addressing challenges faced by immigrant and refugee communities living in suburban cities and unincorporated areas of the county. A non-exhaustive list of the Commission’s duties is provided in K.C.C. 2.78.020.

The Commission is comprised of thirteen members and has the following requirements:[[3]](#footnote-3)

* A diversity of members reflecting a range of ethnicities, professional backgrounds, socioeconomic status and places of origin to reflect the diversity of the county's immigrant and refugee communities;
* All members must be residents of King County;
* All members shall demonstrate active and engaged civic participation in one or more immigrant and refugee communities and be well versed on the issues affecting those communities;
* Membership shall reflect gender diversity;
* At least six members shall be from suburban cities or unincorporated areas;
* At least three members shall have had personal experiences as a refugee or asylee from any location worldwide;
* Membership shall represent a range of age groups, including persons representing youth issues;
* At least five members shall represent and be appointed by an immigrant-led organization serving immigrant communities and of these representatives at least three members shall represent and be appointed by a small grass-roots community-based organization that has an annual budget of less than two-hundred fifty thousand dollars, that supports the needs of distinct immigrant and refugee communities and is composed predominantly of members of those communities;
* At least one member should have familiarity with King County government, systems and agencies; and
* Persons representing faith-based organizations are encouraged to apply.

Additionally, the Commission may include four nonvoting members who shall be community leaders that are actively engaged with local government, business or philanthropic organizations, and add value to the commission and raise its visibility and capacity through their expertise, relationships, and networks.

Per County Code, appointments to the Commission are subject to Council confirmation. Approval of the proposed motions would fulfill this requirement.

**APPOINTEE INFORMATION**

**Appointee Juanita Salinas-Aguila.** Proposed Motion 2021-0215 would confirm the appointment of Juanita Salinas-Aguila, who resides in Council District Five, for a partial term expiring September 30, 2022. As described in her application materials, Ms. Salinas-Aguila grew up as a daughter of an immigrant family and is an active participant of the Latinx community in King County, specifically the Central American population. As further noted, she has extensive experience working with immigrant and refugee communities and works as a Program Director for the Pacific Northwest at Enterprise Community Partners.

**Appointee Bilan Aden.** Proposed Motion 2021-0227 would confirm the appointment of Bilan Aden, who resides in Council District Eight, for a partial term expiring September 30, 2021. As described in her applicant materials, Ms. Aden is actively engaged in working with immigrant and refugee communities throughout King County, particularly east African communities based in south King County. As further noted, Ms. Aden works as the Associate Director at African Community Housing and Development and serves on the leadership team of King County Play Equity Coalition and the Community Cafe Collaborative.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointments. They appear to be consistent with the requirements of county code.

**INVITED**

* Juanita Salinas-Aguila, Appointee to the Immigrant and Refugee Commission
* Bilan Aden, Appointee to the Immigrant and Refugee Commission
* Hamdi Mohamed, OESJ, Staff Liaison the Immigrant and Refugee Commission
* Reeni Nair, KCC, Staff Liaison to the Immigrant and Refugee Commission

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0215
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Proposed Motion 2021-0227
4. Transmittal Letter
1. Proposed Motion 2021-0215 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Proposed Motion 2021-0227 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Per K.C.C. 2.78.030.B., no more than three members of the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force (established by Ordinance 18085) shall be appointed to the Commission during the first term of the thirteen membership positions. For context, in July 2015, Ordinance 18085 was enacted directing the Executive to convene a task force to develop a final report with recommendations on the creation of an immigrant and refugee commission. The members of the task force were appointed in October 2015, and the task force presented it final report, “*Advancing Equity and Opportunity for King County Immigrants and Refugees: A report from the King County Immigrant and Refugee Task Force*” (Report 2016-RPT0107) to the Council in July 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)