

Immigrant Advancement Committee of CDICR

Agenda for May 17, 2022 – 7:30pm-8:30pm

Present: Joan Lancourt, Jessica Chicco, Eric Hardt, Tina Li, Bishnu Tamang, Shubha Harihally Shankaranarayana, Harvey Freishtat

Voting on minutes from April meeting

Minutes were approved. Roll call vote- Joan: yes; Jessica: yes; Eric: yes; Tina: yes; Bishnu: yes; Shubha: yes

Updates

- No update on language access coordinator
- Driver's license bill passed the Senate! Once bill is reconciled it will go before the governor. We can expect a governor's veto but majority in both House and Senate is strong enough to override.
- Ukrainian supplemental bill being considered in Congress right now would extend refugee benefits to Ukrainian arrivals

Public Hearing on Warrant Article 29

- Jay Sweitzer-Shalit presented on WA29, which would extend the right to vote in municipal elections to lawful permanent residents. Jay also shared that a substitute motion is expected to be presented by the Advisory Committee which would turn this WA into a resolution rather than a home rule petition.
- Joan moved favorable action on WA29, petitioner's motion. Eric seconded. Roll call vote - Joan: yes; Jessica: yes; Tina: yes; Shubha: yes; Bishnu: yes; Eric: yes. Committee voted unanimously in support of WA29, petitioner's motion

Debrief from citizenship clinic

Overall committee members felt it went well, and we may want to consider hosting another citizenship clinic in the fall. We talked about how to follow up with volunteers and clients to build relationships. We agreed MIRA would share information about the Immigrant Advancement Committee with its Brookline clients.

Jessica also provided a brief preview of a program MIRA is hoping to launch in the fall - the New American Changemakers. The program would provide a series of workshops to recently naturalized MIRA clients with the objective of increasing civic engagement.

Review of ELL stats

We didn't have much time for this conversation, but we briefly reviewed some of the numbers and agreed it would be good to learn more. There was a brief discussion about creating a platform for immigrant students and families to share their stories.

Next meeting on June 14 at 7:30pm.