

NEIGHBORHOODS & DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES • March 15, 2016 • CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1 **10. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Glenda Powell-Freeman.
2

3 **20. Roll Call:**

4 Commission Position 1 - <i>vacant</i>	Commission Position 2 - <i>vacant</i>
5 Commissioner Vice-Chair Angel Shimelish-	Commissioner Chair Glenda Powell-Freeman
6 Commission Rosamaría Graziani	Commission Position 6 - <i>vacant</i>
7 Commission Position 7 - <i>vacant</i>	Council Liaison Christopher Boyer
8 Executive Office Liaison Art Ceniza	Staff Liaison Tracy Sloan
9	

10 **30. Public Comments** – Several individuals spoke, (Ted Hikel, Brenda León, and Ingrid León), related to
11 the Diversity Commission, request for availability of information via e-mail and in Spanish, and
12 request to schedule the Latino art on other days than a Saturday.
13

14 **40. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from January meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Graziani
15 asked to add that letter of resignation from Berel Paltiel would be released after the Mayor met
16 with Berel. Commissioner Shimelish move to approve minutes with the correction. Commissioner
17 Graziani seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
18

19 **50. Council Liaison Update** – The council is working on budgeting for outcomes. The council is looking
20 for input on the budget from the boards and commissions. Council member Boyer is head of the
21 Budget Committee. Discussion followed.
22

23 **60. Old Business**

24 **60.1 Finalization of 2015 Commission report** - Staff Liaison Sloan presented the 2015 report for
25 review with additions from Commissioners. There was discussion and several corrections were
26 made. Executive Office Liaison Ceniza commented on the phenomenal job that the Commission had
27 done with the Strategic Plan and will schedule the report to be presented at a Council meeting.

28 **60.2 Resignation of Commissioner Paltiel** –Chair Powell-Freeman read aloud the letter from
29 Commissioner Paltiel related to his resignation. (Letter attached to minutes).

30 **60.3. Race Conference** – April 9th at 8:30 a.m. Chair Powell-Freeman reached out to her contact but
31 had not heard anything back. Commissioner Shimelish will help with the connecting. Discussion
32 followed.

33 **70. New Business:**

34 **70.1 Comments from Chair** – Chair Powell-Freeman was reflecting on 2015 and where we stand in
35 2016. Commissioner Powell-Freeman asked if Commissioner Graziani would resign from the
36 commission. Commissioner Graziani said she would not resign and go ahead with the letter. With
37 much difficulty, Chair Powell-Freeman and Commissioner Shimelish wrote a letter to the Mayor
38 asking for the resignation of Commissioner Graziani. The letter was read in open session. (Letter and
39 referenced attachments included) Commissioner Shimelish made a motion to recommend to the
40 Mayor to begin the process to remove Commissioner Graziani as a commissioner of the Diversity
41 Commission. Discussion followed. Mayor will review and make recommendation and brings it before
42 the Council.
43

44 **80. Staff Updates** – Executive Office Liaison spoke of the budget process and schedule. May 25th is the
45 budget kickoff for 2017-2018. There are two phases: with the Mayor until September then second
46 phase is the council from September to the end of the year. There will be a joint commission
47 meeting and the date is to be determined. The Human Services Commission is being formed and

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- 1 interviews for commissioners will be held and the details are being worked out. The Mayor wants to
2 continue the Cultural Diversity training as a way of life and an education process. There will be a
3 series of workshops for city employee and we are excited about the process. Council member
4 Sutton informed us about Race Justice Conference in Seattle on March 22nd. There also is a Town
5 Hall Meeting in Seattle on April 15th at Cascadia College from 8am and is the whole day.
6
- 7 **90. Comments for the good of the order** – Karen Law, asked for permission to speak to the Commission
8 and shared some perspective and appreciation for the commissioners. Commissioner Graziani
9 shared a walk event occurring on Sunday at 1:15 p.m. with the Audubon Society. Commissioner
10 Shimelish shared the process for hiring the Edmonds School District Superintendent. Executive
11 Office Liaison Ceniza talked about the seriousness of the letter the Commissioners were sending to
12 the Mayor and the next steps in the process. The Mayor will want to meet with the Commissioners
13 before moving forward.
14
- 15 **100. Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

BH

Dear Mayor Smith,

Please accept this letter as formal notice that I am resigning from my position as a commissioner on the Lynnwood Neighborhood and Demographic Diversity Commission.

I believe that the commission's role needs to be narrowed down and be more specifically defined in order for the commission to be effective. The hostile environment at recent meetings have also made me very uncomfortable. It is for those reasons that I humbly submit my resignation.

Thank you for the opportunity and honor of serving in this important commission with such dedicated and passionate people and I look forward to future opportunities to serve our wonderful city.

Sincerely,
Berel Paltiel

March 15, 2016
Mayor Nicola Smith
City of Lynnwood
19100 44th Avenue West
Lynnwood, WA 98036

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2016

EXECUTIVE DEPT.

Dear Mayor Smith,

It is with heavy hearts that we recommend that you consider removing Commissioner Rosamaria Graziani from this commission immediately. Throughout 2015, commission meetings have unfortunately not been conducted in the spirit of diversity and peace. Sadly, then Chair Graziani chose to lead the commission on a collision course with the Mayor's office, city council, and other city offices that has greatly damaged our commissions focus and effectiveness.

We want to continue to be an advisory body whose duties shall be to monitor demographic trends of the city and to identify and recommend to the Mayor and City Council ways to encourage mutual understanding among Citizens about the increasing demographic of the City of Lynnwood. Our commission was so out-of-touch with the community, the Mayor pledged to us to revisit and create our Ten-Year Strategic Plan – therefore all activities ceased from mid-summer 2015 to the present. Our Strategic Plan was completed and sent to Mayor's Office in December 2015. Instead of planning our partnerships to bring the communities together – Commissioner Rosamaria Graziani has caused many distractions.

- The City of Lynnwood have a policy 2.94.010 – we are to conduct Lynnwood City's business in a fair, open, efficient and accountable manner. We find that Commissioner Graziani has violated many of Lynnwood's City Code of Ethics, below are just a few examples:
 - Prior to our January 2016 meeting, Commissioner Graziani sent an email to promote one commissioner as Chair but only if the chaired commissioner votes her as Vice-Chair. Email is attached. When the election didn't go as she planned, she got up and left in the middle of the meeting claiming to have had a stomach ache.
 - February 12, 2016, Commissioner Graziani, in a threatening manner requested a Black History Proclamation and used the Latino community to be present at the City Council meeting on February 22, 2016 and said, "If no proclamation then, we will be very vocal in our complaints." On behalf of the Afro-Latino population, she urged Councilman and President Boyer to present a proclamation to proclaim February as Black History Month.
 - In our November 2015 meeting, Commissioner Graziani helped a student write/read/interpret a letter that was threatening to newly elective officials who they helped campaigned for – their threat was implied that two new council members were elected to help their cause and if they did not have more opportunities for the Latino community, they will vote new people into the Council office. Yet, she is encouraging another division between the City and its communities.

- Throughout 2015, then Chair Graziani created conflicting meeting agendas, creating agendas that promoted her own agenda items rather than ones developed in collaboration with the Mayor's office. This in turn created issues where scheduled speakers didn't have adequate time to speak at the meetings.
- Former Commissioner Berel Palter resigned from NDDC beginning February 2016 because of the disruptive environment that was a recap from the November 2015 meeting.
- Personal Gain or profit - use of persons, money or property.
 - August 12, 2015, then chair Graziani sent email to Sara Olsen regarding a "Thank you" letter that the City were sending to Ciudad Interior – Her questions was "what about me?" "Don't you think I deserve a thank you letter, too?"
 - In a personal email sent to Chair Glenda Powell- Freeman, Commissioner Graziani said "to be honest, I have no faith in this Administration and my extra time will be devoted to other activities more likely to succeed than swimming upstream with this Mayor."

With such utter disrespect for current City Administration, disregard to adhere to the mission and vision of this commission, and disruptive behavior of Commissioner Graziani's conduct, the NDDC Commissioners recommend that Commissioner Rosamaria Graziani's appointment to this commission be terminated effective immediately.

Thank you,



Chair Glenda Powell-Freeman

Vice-Chair Angel Shimelish



Reference Attachments to Letter from Diversity Commission



Jan
12

Rosamaría Graziani <rmgraziani@gmail.com>

to me, shirley

Dear Glenda,

I will nominate you for Chair. I believe you will do a great job, my friend.
I will nominate myself for Vice Chair.

Another thing. Again, I submitted an agenda that was not "accepted" by the Executive Office. My suggested changes to the agenda sent by Tracy are:

- 1) a recap of 2015
- 2) more time for elections (not just 5 minutes!!!)
- 3) only 20 mins for the Human Resource Director recruiter (not 45!!!)
- 4) no need to hear from Art about the process to fill a vacancy at the Commission

I will need a person to second the motion. Let me know if you can be that person.

All the best for 2016!

Rosamaria.



Glenda Powell-Freeman <gpowfree@gmail.com> Jan 12

to Rosamaría, shirley

Hi Rosamaria,

The Diversity Team is really in an uproar and I am ambiguous about the chair position. We do need to connect with the City like never before. If we do not then the Diversity Team will be no more.

I have been a part of the team for almost nine years. This is the worst I have seen this office. It was bad when Emily left the office but this is the first time I have seen this office in a low and un-respected position as it is today.

I have been praying for all of us because we are so passionate about engaging our community. The only way I believe this office can heal is that you step out of leadership and allow Angel or Pining to step in vice chair position, if and only my God allow me to be the chair.

We have to look at what is best for this office. Do we want it to go away? Or do we want a gateway for our community? You are a very strong woman and it intimidates our mayor. We have to tone it down and get what we want with honey vs. push-backs and rebellion. You will still be an advocate for our community. Please consider?

Please believe I wrote this email with much love for you, Rosamaria.

Glenda



Rosamaria Graziani <rmgraziani@gmail.com> Jan 12

to me

Dear Glenda,

I'll gladly step out and vote for Pining if you run for Chair. Pining is the most committed commissioner and deserves to hold that position.

I also write this email with a lot of love for you and for our City.

Best,

R.

A faster way to get your Gmail Yes, get Chrome now No thanks

Rosamaria.Graziani@ci.lynnwood.wa.us

Glenda

Gmail

Move to Inbox

More

2 of about 74

COMPOSE

Program for at risk youth

image x

People (2)

Inbox (12,517)

Starred

Important

Sent Mail

Drafts (100)

[imap]/Sent

More

Rosamaria Graziani

Mar 7 (7 days ago)

Rosamaria C

to me

Add to circles

Dear Madam Chair

Karen Hinze, vicepresident of Academia Latina would like 15 mins of our next meeting to talk about a community proposal to help at risk youth of every ethnicity.

Sho

For full disclosure, I am the president of Academia Latina, but she will be presenting the proposal.

Respectfully,

R.

Sign in to start talking with friends

Sign in

 Glenda Powell-Freeman <gpowfree@gmail.com>

Mar 7 (7 days ago)

to Rosamaria

Hi Rosamaria,

We have a full agenda and can possibly place her on our April or May Agenda.

We are a week out from our meeting and it will be difficult for us to regroup at this late date.

If you will like to draft that proposal, that will expedite our decision to grant her 15 minutes for our April or May Agenda.

Thank you,

Glenda

Rosamaria Graziani

Mar 9 (5 days ago)

to Rosamaria me

will do

From: Glenda Powell-Freeman [gpowfree@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 1:16 PM

To: Rosamaria Graziani

Subject: Re: Program for at risk youth

Rosamaria Graziani Feb 23

to me, Tracy, Angel, Rosamaría

Dear Madam Chair,

Please send all NDDC emails to my City email.

Please read Mrs. Sloan's email carefully.

What I sent was no change to the Strategic plan.

It was an addition/amendment to the NDDC Activities in 2015. Notice the verbs in the past tense.

We were asked to do this in our monthly meeting.

I just added a few that Mrs. Sloan had missed.

I also asked her to remove the activity she did.

Per municipal code, she is not a member of the body and she cannot represent the NDDC unless specifically commissioned to do that. This cannot be done a posteriori.

Respectfully,

Rosamaria.



Glenda Powell-Freeman <gpowfree@gmail.com> Feb 23

to Rosamaria, Tracy, Angel, Rosamaría

Rosamaria,

You can make suggestions but all of the commissioners have to vote on any actions that you are suggesting. Bring all your concerns to our next meeting. Should you want me to consider anything, please email me to let me know prior to adding Tracy and the City members. We have to operate as a TEAM! Even as chair, I have to allow all members come with their voices.

I am totally grateful for Tracy and hope that she stays on our board.

Thanks again,

Glenda Powell-Freeman
Chair

Rosamaria Graziani Feb 23

to me, Tracy, Angel, Rosamaría

Dear Madam Chair,

I was just following up on something Mrs. Sloan asked us to do.
If you want to vote on something that already happened, so be it.
It is a list of our activities in 2015, not this year.

I also want Mrs. Sloan to stay. I never said otherwise. Where did you read that I wanted her to leave our board?

I am curious.

Happy morning and back to work :)

R.

Rosamaría Graziani <rmgraziani@gmail.com> Jan 12

to me, shirley

Dear Glenda,

You are also a strong woman. Hopefully you don't intimidate the Mayor as you say I do.

My friends, I will nominate myself for Chair and ViceChair just to be able to speak as only those nominated can say a few words. At least it was like that last year.

I will withdraw my nomination when I finish speaking.

To be honest, I have no faith in this Administration and my extra time will be devoted to other activities more likely to succeed than swimming upstream with this Mayor.

I sincerely hope you get elected.

All best,

R.

rmgraziani@gmail.com

Gmail

Move to Inbox

COMPOSE

one quick thing

Inbox x

Inbox (12,518)

Starred

Important

Sent Mail

Drafts (100)

[Imap]/Sent

More



Glenda

Make a call

Also try our mobile apps for
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Rosamaria Graziani <rmgraziani@gmail.com>

to me, shirley

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R.



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