The Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission’s Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee Seeks Members

The Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission Mission is to advance justice, promote equality and ensure the protection of human rights for all people in Des Moines through investigation, education, advocacy and community engagement.

The Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission seeks members to serve on the Commission’s newest subcommittee: The Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee ("RIAS").

The Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee will:

- Provide assistance and advice to the Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission regarding issues affecting refugee and immigrant communities with a focus on: securing equal rights and opportunities, incorporate the refugee/immigrant community into Des Moines, providing input on the development of a city immigrant and refugee commission, stimulating interaction between the native born and immigrant residents of Des Moines, celebrating the culture of refugee and immigrant communities, and educating the public about subjects related to foreign-born persons.
- Advocate for the civil and human rights of refugee and immigrant persons.
- Inform the refugee and immigrant communities about the Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission.

The Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee of the Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission will seek members who are actively engaged in the community and who possess demonstrated experience and knowledge in a variety of issues that may be advanced by the subcommittee. They may include: knowledge of immigrant and refugee culture, naturalization/visa issues, civil rights, employment/entrepreneurship, job training/technical assistance, hate-crimes, faith-based advocacy, transportation, food-assistance, relevant immigrant/refugee law, the justice system, notarization scams, language-learning, education, and health issues. We seek to achieve diversity and representation in order to fully understand and provide support for the refugee and immigrant perspective on these issues.

Please send a cover letter, your resume and your answers to the following:

(Answer each question in 200 words or less)

1. Why would you like to serve on the RIAS?
2. What do you see as crucial issues currently affecting refugee and immigrants in Des Moines?
3. Please describe your community involvement.
4. What are your areas of expertise?
5. What other qualities would you bring to the RIAS?
6. Are you able to make a firm commitment to attend Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Subcommittee meetings on a monthly basis?
7. Are you able to make a commitment to spend additional time on work groups?

Please email your application to: HumanRights@dmgov.org and put “RIAS” in the subject line.

MEMBERSHIP SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT
Successful applicants will receive their official notice of appointment by the Des Moines Human & Civil Rights Commission in September 2017 with the official membership commencing at the first RIAS meeting in October 2017. (TBA)

Upon appointment new members are required to attend a new membership orientation and at least 8 scheduled RIAS meetings from October 2017 to October 2018. Initial appointment is for one year.

Only applicants who reside in or are regularly employed in the City of Des Moines will be considered for appointment.

Deadline to apply: Sunday, August 20, 2017, 11:59pm.