



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

March 3, 2021
Supplemental Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Lara Versari
Michael Henson

Public:

Amy Henson
Sidd Pattanayak
Alex Reidy
Lindsey Green
Christopher Spicer

Starting time: 6:33p

Immigrant Stories Project

Video Considerations

- Immigrant businesses in Somerville
- Start with restaurants
- Start with defining scope
- Define Human Rights focus – private enterprise, improve public discourse

“Human Rights watch - The right to a private life/enterprise.”

Let’s add positive sense. What is the motivation for these business owners to participate?

Send a letter to immigrant business owners. Potential elements include:

“Dear Business Owner:

The City of Somerville Human Rights Commission, in an effort to improve the quality of our public discourse, would like to invite you to share your immigrant and business experience.

We strive as a community to achieve a greater understanding of the immigrant experience by highlighting their contributions.”

Potential Questions:

- Tell us your story.
- What brought you to the U.S.?
- What brought you to Somerville?
- Tell us about your business and its relationship to the community.
- As a BO, what are your goals for improving the community?
- What support do you need from the community or Somerville to allow you to grow your business?
- What are current challenges?
- How does your business contribute to the diversity of Somerville? What role does your business play in that?
- How has the city of Somerville changed the way you think about your business?
- What changes would you like to see?
- What is your favorite dish? How does it remind you of home?

Channels to pursue:

- Somerville media center
- Somerville public tv
- City website
- City front page
- HRC front page
- Youtube
- Press release? Reporters? Could be a marketing tool for Somerville restaurants / businesses
- Globe contact? (Amy)

Consent considerations:

- What does Somerville communications group (standard way for permissions)
- Will the BO be willing to share pictures?

Other considerations:

- Does the city have a list of restaurant owners? Immigrant restaurant owners?
- Journalistic arrangement conducted by an interviewer or a self-made video provided by the BO?
- How much air time per business?
- Ask Nancy/Somerviva if someone could help with interpretation/captioning. We will want people speaking in whatever language they are comfortable with.
- Can the Media Center accommodate translated captions?
- Submit proposal to attention of professor at Tufts

From Christopher:

- videographer Shun Liang helped edit footage for the Isaac Royal House virtual tour Feb 24 - Boston based. <https://www.shun-liang.com/>

Sidd is drafting a letter to restaurant owners. He will share a Google doc for comments

Ending time: 7:23p

