

City of Seattle



**Director
Office of Immigrant and
Refugee Affairs**

**Confirmation Packet
April 19, 2022**

Hamdi Mohamed



April 19, 2022

The Honorable Debora Juarez
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Juarez:

It is my pleasure to transmit to the City Council the following confirmation packet for my appointment of Hamdi Mohamed as Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

The materials in this packet are divided into two sections:

A. Hamdi Mohamed

This section contains Ms. Mohamed's appointment and oath of office forms, her resume, and the press release announcing her appointment.

B. Background Check

This section contains the report on Ms. Mohamed's background check.

I take special pride in nominating this credentialed leader to helm the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs (OIRA) after I was primary sponsor of the legislation to establish the office as Councilmember in 2012. I know this work takes bold vision and endless energy which is why I am so confident that Hamdi is the person for the job.

Hamdi Mohamed brings lived experience as a former refugee herself and has dedicated her life to improving living conditions for our immigrant and refugee neighbors. She has experienced the impacts of decisions made by the government and has expertise in the areas of organizational development, decision making and public policy and continues to build on her work to empower immigrant and refugee communities. At the King County Executive Office, she advised on the County's \$12 billion dollar budget and managed initiatives that invested millions in small businesses, community organizations, and COVID-19 response. Prior to serving King County, she served as Deputy District Director for the U.S. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, where she utilized her advocacy and leadership skills to help constituents navigate the impacts of public policy and saved millions of dollars for residents and businesses across King County. Hamdi has also worked for CARE International and the Refugee Women Alliance in roles dedicated to fighting poverty and empowering immigrants. She's committed to public service and has played a key role in the deportation defense campaigns of multiple people and provided advocacy support to help families reunite.

I selected Hamdi Mohamed to serve as Interim Director of OIRA in January. In the time since, my office consulted with stakeholders regarding her performance, including representatives from One America, Asian Counseling & Referral Services, El Centro de la Raza, the Refugee Women's Alliance, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, East African Community Services, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo, and staff at the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. The resounding conclusion from stakeholders was that Hamdi Mohamed is approachable, accessible, responsive, community-oriented, with a warm and generous

attitude. It was this feedback that informed my decision to send her nomination packet onto you today. Hamdi is prepared to push Seattle's already-respected Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs to new heights and to be ever-present in community.

In her time as Interim Director of OIRA, Ms. Mohamed has demonstrated her commitment to advancing the interests of our immigrant and refugee population. She has been instrumental in implementation of the plan to welcome an immediate influx of Ukrainian refugees stemming from the current crisis and maintains a dedicated focus on refugees arriving from countries from across the globe. She's in the midst of a listening tour with people from community-based organizations to seek their guidance as she develops an OIRA strategic plan that focuses on equity, health, and integration for immigrant and refugee communities. I'm confident that she and her team will only continue building on her record informing and empowering constituencies who too often go unheard.

I trust that after reviewing Hamdi's application materials, meeting with her, and following Councilmember Morales' comprehensive Neighborhoods, Education, Civil Rights & Culture Committee review, you will find how fortunate we are to have her serve as permanent Director of the Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs. She is driven to get things accomplished for the people of Seattle and brings a positive solution-oriented attitude that's informed by the close bonds she has with diverse communities across our region.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, Chief Equity Officer Adiam Emery would welcome hearing from you. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce A. Harrell".

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

SECTION

A



City of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell

March 16, 2022

Hamdi Mohamed
Seattle, WA
Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Hamdi,

It gives me great pleasure to appoint you to the position of Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs at an annual salary of \$165,000.

Your appointment as Director is subject to City Council confirmation; therefore, you will need to attend the Council's confirmation hearings. Once confirmed by the City Council, you serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Your contingent offer letter provided employment information related to the terms of your employment, benefits, vacation, holiday and sick leave.

I look forward to working with you in your role as Director and wish you success. We have much work ahead of us, and I am confident that the Office will thrive under your leadership.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce A. Harrell".

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Seattle Department of Human Resources file



City of Seattle Department Head Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Hamdi Mohamed</i>		
City Department Name: <i>Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs</i>		Position Title: <i>Director</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		Term of Office: <i>City Council Confirmation to Mayor's Discretion</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.14.515</i>		
Background: Hamdi Mohamed brings lived experience as a former refugee herself and has dedicated her life to improving living conditions for our immigrant and refugee neighbors. She has experienced the impacts of decisions made by the government and has expertise in the areas of organizational development, decision making and public policy and continues to build on her work to empower immigrant and refugee communities. At the King County Executive Office, she advised on the County's \$12 billion dollar budget and managed initiatives that invested millions in small businesses, community organizations, and COVID-19 response. Prior to serving King County, she served as Deputy District Director for the U.S. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, where she utilized her advocacy and leadership skills to help constituents navigate the impacts of public policy and saved millions of dollars for residents and businesses across King County. Hamdi has also worked for CARE International and the Refugee Women Alliance in roles dedicated to fighting poverty and empowering immigrants. She's committed to public service and has played a key role in the deportation defense campaigns of multiple people and provided advocacy support to help families reunite.		
Date of Appointment: <i>4/19/2022</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor</i>



CITY OF SEATTLE ▪ STATE OF WASHINGTON
OATH OF OFFICE

State of Washington

County of King

I, Hamdi Mohamed, swear or affirm that I possess all of the qualifications prescribed in the Seattle City Charter and the Seattle Municipal Code for the position of the Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Washington, and the Charter and Ordinances of The City of Seattle; and that I will faithfully conduct myself as the Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

Hamdi Mohamed

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this ____ day of _____, 2022.

[Seal]

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

Hamdi Mohamed

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Proven success in management, policy, and economic development with years of vast experience working in key areas of communication, workforce development, budget development, employment-based immigrant and refugee policy field. Highly skilled at independently interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating individual case information and immigration laws and regulations. Possesses a superb ability in guiding countywide initiatives, integration programming, partnership development, policy and budget development. Has demonstrated strength in streamlining projects and communicating with stakeholders, government, and the public on policy.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Secured millions of dollars for a housing and community market to support tourism and provide economic opportunities for families and small businesses in King County
- Through business partnership, secured 14,000 pounds of essential supplies that went to community health clinics and frontline workers at no cost to them or the King County Government
- Administered job readiness classes for hundreds of young people while managing youth programs that develop leadership skills and empowered youth for civic engagement; programs focus on creating living-wage jobs and targeted pipeline into the workforce

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Policy Advisor, Office of Equity, King County Executive Office August 2019 - Present

- Implementing internal and external immigration policies, including developing training for over 15,000 county employees
- Providing advising and monitoring support to the \$12B+ County Budget to help reduce disparities and advance equity across the King County region
- Compiling fiscal performance and program data and maintain budget documents and research reports
- Managing millions of public funds and grants going directly to local organizations, small businesses, and COVID-19 response programs
- Coordinating with cities and stakeholders to analyze and report on existing economic situations to meet the needs of women and minority-owned businesses, using funding from the county's lodging taxes to support tourism activities

Deputy District Director, U.S. House of Representatives January 2017 - August 2019

- Provided legislative updates to key stakeholders and business leaders on behalf of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal
- Served as a conduit between the Congresswoman, constituents and government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Labor Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Embassies and Consulates, and the Small Business Administration

- Effectively managed a team of over ten employees which has saved or returned constituents and businesses over millions of dollars through casework in the first term

Employment Coordinator and Case Manager, Refugee Women's Alliance October 2015 - May 2016

- Coordinated with human resources, business partners, recruiters, and hiring managers to develop job readiness classes that prepared low-income residents for employment attainment
- Supervised the assisting staff members and prepared staff reports for stakeholders
- Collaborated with work-source agencies to organize job fairs which connected job-seekers with hundreds of employment opportunities

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND COMMITTEES

Southside Chamber of Commerce – Member, African Chamber of Commerce – Member, World Affairs Council of Seattle – Fellow, Immigrant and Refugee Commission – Member, Biden 2020 Campaign – Regional Director

AWARDS

King County Performance Excellence Awards, WA National Women Political Caucus Heroine Award

MEDIA

- [Editor. "Hamdi Mohamed Seeks to Be First Woman of Color Elected to Port of Seattle Commission." *South Seattle Emerald*, 9 July 2021](#)
- [Allen, Percy. "King County Partners with Beyoncé and Her Mom for Free Drive-Thru Coronavirus Testing This Weekend." *The Seattle Times*, The Seattle Times Company, 12 June 2020](#)
- [Insider, Public Health. "Expanded Free COVID-19 Testing in South King County." *PUBLIC HEALTH INSIDER*, 10 June 2020](#)
- [Kunkler, Aaron. "Community Faces Displacement." *Seattle Weekly*, Seattle Weekly, 13 Feb. 2019](#)

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts: Law, Societies, and Justice; Near Eastern Studies and Civilization, University of Washington
- Master of Arts: Policy Studies, University of Washington
- Global Business Certificate: Harvard Business School Online



City of Seattle

Mayor Bruce Harrell

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Information

Jamie Housen

Phone: 206-798-5002

Email: jamie.housen@seattle.gov

Mayor Harrell Appoints New Department Leaders and Hires Director of Public Safety

Hamdi Mohamed will direct the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; Maiko Winkler-Chin will lead the Office of Housing; Andrew Myerberg will join the Mayor's Office as Director of Public Safety

Seattle – Today, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell announced additional members of his Cabinet, appointing new directors to the Office of Housing and the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Harrell also announced the hiring of a director of public safety within the Mayor's Office.

Harrell will appoint Hamdi Mohamed to serve as director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Recently elected King County Port Commissioner, Mohamed brings more than a decade of experience working on immigrant and refugee issues, including as a policy advisor for King County. As director, she will serve Seattle's diverse immigrant community by fostering relationships citywide, facilitating meaningful outreach, and creating a proactive office centered on inclusion.

"I sponsored the legislation that created the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and continue to advocate for it to be a chief conduit in driving authentic connections between communities and City government," **said Mayor Harrell.** "We can't be One Seattle without sustained and consistent input from our immigrant and refugee communities – they cannot be an afterthought. I am confident that Hamdi Mohamed shares this vision and will develop the authentic, on-the-ground partnerships needed to take this office to the next level.

"I want to thank Director Cuc Vu for her service to our City and for her thoughtful, steadfast support for immigrant and refugee communities in our region."

Harrell will appoint Maiko Winkler-Chin, longtime housing leader and executive director of the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority as director of the Office of Housing. Winkler-Chin will be charged with leading the office at a time of rapid change, as it receives significant resources for building and maintaining housing and provides rental assistance and support for tenants and small landlords.

“Maiko Winkler-Chin recognizes the twin pressures of a dire need for more affordable housing and the critical importance of supporting Seattle's longstanding communities, especially those at risk of displacement,” **said Mayor Harrell.** “She knows solutions to these challenges don’t have to be mutually exclusive if efforts get beyond soundbites and are instead collaborative and forward-thinking. Maiko wouldn’t be willing to leave her job of nearly two decades if we didn’t have a real opportunity to make positive change for our City at this unprecedented moment. I’m so excited to see her proven leadership in action – advancing major investments, improving office processes, and bringing an innovative approach and a culturally-adept lens to make Seattle’s Office of Housing a national leader.

“I want to express my gratitude to Interim Director Robin Koskey for her leadership – stepping up to direct this department during difficult and fast-changing times.”

Finally, Andrew Myerberg, the current director of the Office of Police Accountability, will join Harrell’s office as director of public safety. Working with Senior Deputy Mayor Monisha Harrell, Myerberg will play a key role in developing new models of public safety, working collaboratively with Seattle Police and Fire Departments, and helping guide oversight and reform efforts.

“Facing a changing landscape and so many new and ongoing safety crises, my administration is putting public safety at the top of the agenda,” **said Mayor Harrell.** “Andrew Myerberg brings an expert’s understanding of the issues in front of us, along with a diverse set of professional experiences working toward a safer City for *all* residents. I have no doubt Andrew will enhance our efforts and help originate the bold ideas needed to make change as we enter negotiations on a police contract, stand up a new department of unarmed public safety officers, and build a Seattle Police Department with staffing levels and a culture to match our local needs and local values.”



**Director of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Hamdi Mohamed**

Hamdi Mohamed is a civil servant with more than a decade of experience serving immigrant and refugee communities. Mohamed currently serves as a Policy Advisor to King County, where she manages initiatives directing funds and investments in small businesses, community organizations, and COVID-19 responses. Before working for King County, she served as the Deputy District Director for U.S. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. She also worked for CARE International and the

Refugee Women Alliance in roles dedicated to fighting poverty and empowering immigrants. Mohamed is a graduate of the University of Washington, earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree, along with a Global Business Certificate from Harvard Business School. Last year, Mohamed became the first Black woman elected to the Port of Seattle Commission and the first Somali woman elected in office in Washington state.



Director of the Office of Housing Maiko Winkler-Chin

Maiko Winkler-Chin currently serves as Executive Director of the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), working to preserve, promote and develop the Chinatown International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood. She brings 25+ years' community development experience in asset management, property management, real estate development and finance. Winkler-Chin was a founding member of Puget Sound Regional Council's HUD Sustainable Communities

Regional Equity Network, co-chaired the Urban Land Institute's Center for Sustainable Leadership, and was a UW Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies Affiliate Fellow. She currently serves on the boards of the Housing Development of Seattle King County, Crescent Collaborative, National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development and the Seattle University Youth Initiative. Winkler-Chin was born in Japan, raised in Hawaii, and came to the mainland for college. She lives in Seattle's Beacon Hill neighborhood with her husband, teenager, and puppy.



Director of Public Safety Andrew Myerberg

Andrew Myerberg has served as the Director of Seattle's Office of Police Accountability (OPA) since 2017. Myerberg came to OPA from the Seattle City Attorney's Office, where he was the lead attorney for the City in the Consent Decree over the Seattle Police Department and provided legal advice to City departments on criminal justice and law enforcement issues. Myerberg also previously served as legal counsel to the Seattle Community Police Commission. Myerberg has a Juris Doctorate from American University's Washington College of Law and a

Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College.

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SECTION

B



City of Seattle

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Kimberly Loving, Interim Director

March 16, 2022

TO: Adam Schaefer, City Budget Office

FROM: Annie Nguyen, Seattle Department of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Background check for Hamdi Mohamed

The Seattle Department of Human Resources has received a copy of **Hamdi Mohamed** background check provided by Global Screening Solutions. There were no findings that would impact their employment eligibility.

Cc: Personnel File

Seattle Department of Human Resources

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue Suite 5500, PO Box 34028, Seattle, WA 98124-4028
(206) 684-7999 • TTY:7-1-1 Fax: (206) 684-4157 • Employment Website: www.seattle.gov/jobs

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