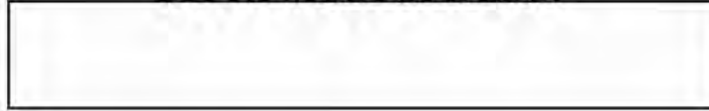


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**Professional Experience**

**Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New York, NY**

Commissioner, May 2018-Present

Acting Commissioner, August 2017-May 2018

- Lead adviser to the Mayor, First Deputy Mayor, and Deputy Mayor on all policy matters related to immigrant affairs for 3.1M New Yorkers and their families;
- Develop Mayor's strategic priorities and agenda to close the gap in social disparities and barriers facing immigrant New Yorkers and implement these priorities;
- Oversee Agency personnel and programs, including management of teams across all program, public engagement, and policy areas, comprising over 300+ staff;
- Advocate for and fundraise to address budget needs with City Office of Management and Budget, legislatures, and philanthropy;
- Directly manage a \$32M budget, and advise on use of an additional \$150M in city tax levy designed to better serve immigrant communities and advance priorities;
- Represent the Agency and Mayor extensively, both internally across the administration and externally with elected officials, key stakeholders, the press, sister cities, governmental partners, constituents, the general public, as well as before legislative hearings;
- Ensure interagency coordination to advance campaigns and efforts supporting immigrant New Yorkers, such as the City's response to family separation, the public charge rule and the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA);
- Developed strategic plan in response to COVID-19, including securing funding for and launching of \$20M Immigrant Emergency Relief program and "Support Not Fear" multi-prolonged community engagement and outreach campaign;
- Build local and national coalitions to advance priorities including, leading Cities for Action, a coalition of 200 cities promoting pro-immigrant policies and launching innovative, inclusive local agendas;
- Design and implement groundbreaking programs to advance inclusion and justice for immigrant New Yorkers, including legal services initiatives, rights education, and health access;
- Evaluate and assess effectiveness of engagement and operations through staff reports, stakeholder meetings, and other means. Work to address ineffectiveness as identified.
- Oversaw agency restructure to ensure more efficient program implementation and operations and to leverage and build upon existing expertise and resources.

**Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New York, NY**

Assistant Commissioner, January 2016 -August 2017

Director of External Affairs, September 2014-January 2016

- Lead public relations manager and strategist for the Agency, executing on rapid response, crisis communications, announcements, speaking engagements, and media relations;
- Led the campaign to connect 1.3 million New Yorkers to government issued identification with the New York City municipal ID card, IDNYC, now the largest municipal ID nationwide;
- Designed and built first-ever outreach team for immigrant serving programs at the Mayor's office. Hired the staff for the team and managed them directly;
- Managed and recruited benefit partners, including working in close collaboration with Agency partners such as the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the three library branches, amongst others;
- Conceptualized marketing and communications strategies to ensure effective utilization of city

- services by immigrant communities. Project managed large scale, citywide campaigns, and won a Communicator Award for effective public advertising;
- Oversaw the management of nearly \$2M budget and procurement processes, focus group vendors, ad buys, outreach materials and other programmatic collateral;
- Developed a specialization in community and ethnic media and provided intra-agency consultation on this area of work, later proposing and realizing citywide executive order mandating use of community and ethnic media in ad spending;
- Created Cities4Action Municipal ID toolkit, facilitated a national convening on municipal IDs, and provided consultation to cities including Paris, Chicago, Dallas, and Newark;
- Informed and reviewed all program policies, rules, and external communications.

### **Safe Horizon Immigration Law Project, New York, NY**

Senior Attorney, July 2013-September 2014

Staff Attorney, November 2007-July 2013

- Specialized in the representation of women and children, in particular domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Safe Horizon is the largest organization helping victims of crime and abuse in the United States with an annual operating budget of \$45M.
- Served and managed well over 100 clients annually with a diverse client base. Represented clients before government officers and federal judges with an exceptionally high approval rate;
- Wrote motions and briefs, conducted research, prepared affidavits, testimony, and advocacy letters;
- Lead and managed intra-agency coordination to develop organizational immigration policy strategy, including obtaining U visa certifications and drafting concerns about secure communities;
- Represented organization at liaison and stakeholder meetings.

### **Chicago Chapter—Council on American Islamic Relations, Chicago, IL**

Attorney, March 2007-November 2007

- Conducted research on immigration trends that are discriminatory or have a discriminatory impact on persons of Middle Eastern or South Asian descent for Chicago Chapter of CAIR. Worked closely with city and Federal agencies to advise on concerns of these communities;
- Successfully litigated cases in federal court on behalf of Middle Eastern clients subject to excessive security checks in immigration matters;
- Represented clients before the Immigration Service, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies.

### **Education**

**DePaul University College of Law, *Juris Doctor***, International and Comparative Law Certificate, 2006

**DePaul University Liberal Arts and Sciences, *Bachelor of Arts***, Political Science, 2002

### **Language Skills**

**English**, Native; **Persian**, Advanced spoken, beginner written; **Spanish**, Advanced spoken

### **Professional Organizations/Distinctions**

Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, *Advisory Board Member*

New York State Complete Count Commission, *Commissioner*

City & State NY, *2020 NYC 40 Under 40 Rising Stars*

Ellis Island Honor Society, *Beacon Award*

Arab American Association of New York, *Get the Job Done Award*

Iranian-American Bar Association, *Public Service Award*

Communicator Awards, *Public Advertising Recognition*