



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

Zoom (Click the following link to join the meeting):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82775537321?pwd=XFAEbIONsymHQoaTkRuFwEG25Lfbur.1>

Meeting ID: 827 7553 7321

Passcode: 053473

I. Call Meeting to Order (5:30 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi

II. Statement of Purpose (5:33 pm) – Commissioner Nicolas

We convene this meeting to advance the City of Tacoma’s mission to “reducing barriers to access and participation in Tacoma’s economic, cultural, and civic life for immigrants and refugees.” This Commission aspires to help “make the City more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming for all.”

III. Land Acknowledgment (5:35 pm) – Commissioner Zepeda

The Commission acknowledges that the meeting is being conducted on Indigenous lands of the Puyallup People, who cared for their ancestral lands before the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 removed native peoples to clear way for colonial settlement. It is important to this Commission as settlers here, aspiring to care for immigrants and refugees in this place and to call it home, that we acknowledge and send gratitude to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians who continue to be leaders for justice in our community today.

IV. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Ghayoumi

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi | <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Lekea | <input type="checkbox"/> Linus Nyaga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro. <i>Vice Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Andy Mejia – Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo Nicolas. <i>Second Vice Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda | <input type="checkbox"/> Iuliia Didkivska | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eunice Kalembo | <input type="checkbox"/> Nixon Tenga | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka | <input type="checkbox"/> Emmanuella Shasha | |

Commissioners

Natalie Ghayoumi
Alicia Sands
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Emmanuella
Nixon Tenga
Linus Nyaga

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Andy Mejia
Lydia Zepeda
Eunice Kalembo
Iuliia Didkivska

- V. **Consent Agenda (5:40 pm)** – Chair Ghayoumi
- a. Approval of April 22, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - b. Approval of March 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VI. **Public Comment (5:40 – 5:50 pm)**

VII. **Commission Affairs**

- a. Introduction of new Commissioners – *please prepare a one-minute or two introduction about yourself*
- b. Current budget for CIRA and hybrid meeting in June 2024
- c. Vote on the letter to City Council – Commissioner Sands
- d. Forming new committees
- e. Commissioner Valdez Castro’s recommendation and presentation
- f. Proclamation
- g. Committee Updates
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, meeting held on April 10, 2024
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, meeting held on April 9, 2024
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee

VIII. **City Staff Updates** – OEHR Staff

IX. **Presentation**

- a. Mike Chin, Director of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights
- b. Possible presentation by a community member

X. **Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements**

- Election

XI. **Adjourn**

Why do we recognize the land?

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol.

–<http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>



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