



**Minutes**  
**Human Rights Commission**  
**Study Session**

**Date: Monday, December 11, 2023**

**Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

Study Session

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**Location:** Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

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

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<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81908915518>

Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

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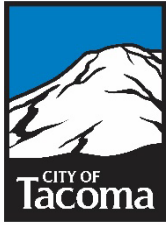
**STUDY SESSION**  
**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

- Presentation of Renting in Tacoma: Landlord Fairness Code Initiative and Rental Housing Code updates by ChiQuata Elder.

**Commissioners**

Amanda Westbooke  
C. Ivan Johnson  
Janice Langbehn  
Keshreyaji Oswal  
Bri Crofton  
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington  
Laurie Lynch  
Mason Culbertson  
Melvin JR Nobles  
Robbi Johnston  
Ronita Boullt



**Minutes**  
**Human Rights Commission**  
**Business Meeting**

**Date: Monday, December 11, 2023**

**Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Business Meeting

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**Location:** Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street  
Conference Room #243  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
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**BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**  
**6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Amanda Westbrooke  
a. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences**

- Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her)
- Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them) (excused)
- Robbi Johnston, Vice Chair (she/her)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)
- Janice Langbehn (she/her)
- Verda Washington (she/her)
- Melvin JR Nobles (he/him)
- Bri Crofton (they/them)

**Commissioners**

Amanda Westbrooke  
C. Ivan Johnson  
Janice Langbehn  
Keshreeyaji Oswal  
Bri Crofton  
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington  
Laurie Lynch  
Mason Culbertson  
Melvin JR Nobles  
Robbi Johnston  
Ronita Boullt  
Lily Nop

- C. Ivan Johnson (he/him)
- Ronita Boullt (she/her)
- Lillian Norris (she/her) (excused)
- Laurie Lynch (she/her)
- Lily Nop, Youth Seat (she/her)

**III. Approval of December 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbooke**

- a. Chair Langbehn made a motion to amend the Meeting Agenda going forward to allow City Staff Updates prior to Commission Affairs (Switching Agenda Item 8 and 9)
- b. Commissioner Oswal seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the Business Agenda is approved as amended.

**IV. Statement of Purpose – Commissioner Nobles**

We convene this meeting to study and investigate problems of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination and to encourage and coordinate the implementation of programs consistent with the needs and rights of all residents of the City of Tacoma.

**V. Land Acknowledgment – Vice Chair Johnston**

*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 all residents 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.*

**VI. Consent Agenda –Chair Westbrooke**

- a. Approval of October 2023 Minutes Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
  - i. Commissioner Langbehn made a motion to approve the October minutes.
  - ii. Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.
  - iii. The Ayes have it and the October Minutes are approved.

**VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)**

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

- a. General Updates
  - i. Recruitment Outreach
    - 1. Applications to be accepted through December 17<sup>th</sup> with Interviews and Appointment on February 8, 2024 – *Commissioners are encouraged to share about recruitment to their networks in order to increase the pool of applicants.*

**Commissioners**

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- b. Case Closures
  - i. 3 Fair Housing Cases – 2 *No Reasonable Cause* and 1 *Administrative Closure*
  - ii. No Employment/Public Accommodation Closures
- c. Upcoming Engagement Opportunities
  - i. MLK Celebration, Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at Tacoma Convention Center
  - ii. Lunar New Year at Eastside Community Center, January 28<sup>th</sup>  
*-Commissioners are encouraged to attend the outreach events and share about the work the Human Rights Commission is doing around Civil Rights Investigations.*

**IX. Commission Affairs**

- a. Chair Updates
- b. Committee Updates
  - i. Education and Outreach
    - 1. Chair Norris
      - *Liaison Shattuck to coordinate with the new Outreach Coordinator to have the next meeting scheduled*
  - ii. Policy, Advocacy, and Accountability
    - 1. Chair Oswal
      - *In November there was an initiative in regards to Cross disability Advocacy with Disability Rights Washington (potential for collaboration)*
      - *Request to share prior policy advocacy correspondence to concerned community members in regard to the City of Tacoma response to those experiencing homelessness.*
      - *Ask for clarification about what information can/should be included in minutes*
      - *Shared Drive Update request – status of city sponsored repository for documentation of Commission work.*
  - iii. Racial Justice
    - 1. Chair ?
      - *No Meetings have occurred for this committee*
  - iv. Housing Equity Task Force (on hiatus)– proposal to come present at February HRC Study Session update on AHAS and Home in Tacoma from staff

**X. Announcements**

**XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:**

**XII. Adjourn**

- a. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

**Commissioners**

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**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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711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

**NOTES**


**Commissioners**

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