**Agenda**

**Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

**Date:** Monday,August23, 2021

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

<https://zoom.us/j/96749278841?pwd=cGJMZTRsbkhKemlsUEgyM0wwRGh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 967 4927 8841

Passcode: 460504

Call-In Number: (253) 215-8782

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Refaei
2. **Statement of Purpose** – Chair Refaei

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.”

1. **Land Acknowledgment** – Vice Chair Sych

*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.*

1. **Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences** – Chair Refaei

Emily Calhoun  Patricia Flores

Perla Gamboa  Emani Donaldson

Hieu Nguyen  Saiyare Refaei (Chair)

Rafael Saucedo  Sandra Sych (Vice-Chair)

Lydia Zepeda  Alma Villegas

Alma Vargas  Alternate Position (Vacant)

1. **Ice Breaker:** Sandra Sych

1. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Refaei
   1. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Yay/Nay Votes)
   2. Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes (Yay/Nay Votes)
2. **City Staff Updates –** Liaison Raeshawna
   1. Tacoma Support of Afghan Translator – CM Thoms
   2. Refugee and Placement Program– Mouammar Abouagila
   3. Government Relations Invitation for CIRA policy development - Liaison Raeshawna
   4. Committee Update Request –Liaison Raeshawna
   5. Other Relevant Update: Get to know you calls with Commissioners- Liaison Raeshawna
3. **Commission Affairs** (60 min)
   1. Welcoming Week event planning update
   2. UW Tacoma’s Inaugural Celebration of Latinx Communities
   3. Committee Updates (30 min)

* Community Safety Committee
* Governance (of CIRA) Committee
* Language Access Committee
* NW Detention Center Committee

1. **Public Comment**
2. **Items for Next Meeting**
   1. Annual Plan Discussion
3. **Adjourn**

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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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