



City of Tacoma
Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

July 22, 2024

5:30 p.m.

In Person and Virtual Meeting

In Person Instructions for Public

747 Market Street
Conference Room #243
Tacoma, WA 98402

Virtual Meeting Instruction for the Public

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82877122622?pwd=vzPBsPX1YvQbOS5haBnEEHqdF0YVLd.1>

Meeting ID: 828 7712 2622

Passcode: 98402

Members: **Chair Natalie Ghayoumi**, **Vice Chair** Maricres Valdez Castro, Second Vice Chair Hugo Nicolas, Commissioner Iuliia Didkivska, Commissioner Eunice Kalembo, Commissioner Samantha Le, Commissioner Maurice Lekea, Commissioner Linus Nyaga, Commissioner Thierry Ruboneka, Commissioner Alicia Sands, Commissioner Emmanuella, Commissioner Nixon Tenga, Commissioner Lydia Zepeda, Youth Commissioner Andy Mejia

I. Call to Order/Roll Call Chair Ghayoumi
5:30 – 5:33 pm

II. Statement of Purpose Commissioner Tenga
5:33 – 5:35 pm

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 Commissioner Kalembo
5:35 – 5:40 pm

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. Consent Agenda Chair Ghayoumi
5:40 – 5:45 pm

- a. Approval of July 22, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of June 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

V. Public Comment
5:45 – 5:50 pm

All written public comment must be submitted in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

VI. Commission Affairs

5:55 pm – 7:10 pm

Officer Election Process

Chair Ghayoumi

- Due to OEHR internal transitions, City requests elections be scheduled for September.
- Review of Secretary Position Responsibilities

b. Welcoming Interactive America

Commissioner Maurice Lekea

- Presentation from Pierce County Commissioner Crea about potential collaboration for 2024 Welcome Week Activities

c. Mental Health Outreach

Vice Chair Castro

d. Committee Updates

Updates from Committee Chairs

- Governance (of CIRA) Committee
- Community Safety Committee
- Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee

VII. City Staff Updates

7:10 pm – 7:20 pm

OEHR Staff

- Trauma Informed Policing Proposal update
- Deportation Defense Funding Proposal update

VIII. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

7:20 pm – 7:30 pm

Local News – Free Food for Youth Events and other City Sponsored Youth activities.

Vice Chair Castro

IX. Adjourn


7:30 pm

Next In Person and Virtual Meeting – August 12, 2024

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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Commissioners
 Natalie Ghayoumi
 Alicia Sands
 Samatha Le
 Maurice Lekea
 Iuliia Didkivska
 Linus Ngaya

Emmanuella Shasha
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