



City of Tacoma Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

August 26, 2024

5:30 p.m.

In Person and Virtual Meeting

In Person Instructions for Public

747 Market Street
Conference Room #220-A
Tacoma, WA 98402

Virtual Meeting Instructions 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 Maurice Lekea, Commissioner Linus Nyaga, Commissioner Thierry Ruboneka, Commissioner Alicia Sands, Commissioner Emmanuella Shasha, Commissioner Nixon Tenga, Commissioner Lydia Zepeda, Youth Commissioner Andy Mejia

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

5:30 – 5:33 pm

Chair Ghayoumi

II. Statement of Purpose

5:33 – 5:35 pm

Commissioner Tenga

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 – 5:40 pm

Commissioner Kalembo

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

5:40 – 5:45 pm

Chair Ghayoumi

- a. Approval of August 26, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of July 22, 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

5:50 pm – 7:00 pm

- a. Nomination of Chair (20 minutes) Chair Ghayoumi
- b. Review of Resolution 39892 and July 22 Meeting (15 minutes) Chair Ghayoumi
- c. Committee Formation (15 minutes) Chair Ghayoumi
 - Each Commissioner should be on at least one Committee
- d. Committee Updates (15 minutes) Updates from Committee Chairs
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee

VII. Presentation from Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

7:00 pm – 7:20 pm

Malou Chavez, Director

VIII. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

7:20 pm – 7:30 pm

IX. Adjourn

7:30 pm

Next In Person and Virtual Meeting – September 23, 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>



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (253) 591-5505. TTY or speech to speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

Commissioners

Natalie Ghayoumi
Alicia Sands
Maurice Lekea
Iuliia Didkivska
Linus Nyaga

Emmanuella Shasha
Nixon Tenga
Eunice Kalembo
Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricres Valdez-Castro
Andy Mejia
Lydia Zepeda