



City of Tacoma
Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

September 23, 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 Instructions for the Public

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82877122622?pwd=vzPBsPX1YvQbOS5haBnEEHqdF0YVVLd.1>

Meeting ID: 828 7712 2622

Passcode: 98402

Members: Vice Chair Maricres Valdez-Castro, Second Vice Chair Hugo Nicolas, Commissioner Iuliia Didkivska, Commissioner Natalie Ghayoumi, 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

Acting Chair Valdez-Castro

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

Acting Chair Valdez-Castro

- a. Approval of September 23, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of August 26, 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. Election of Chair (10 minutes) Acting Chair Valdez-Castro
 - i. Second Chair Nicolas nominated at August Business Meeting
- b. Review of Deportation Defense Fund Proposal Council Response (15 minutes) Commissioners Ghayoumi and Zepeda
- c. Update on Trauma Informed Policing Proposal (15 minutes) Commissioners Ghayoumi and Zepeda
- d. Review of NWIPC letter (distributed to CIRA on 9/12/24) and discussion to write a formal thank you to City Council. Commissioner Zepeda
- e. Committee Updates (15 minutes) Updates from Committee Chairs
 - i. Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - 1. Held Second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM
 - ii. Community Safety Committee
 - iii. Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee

TACOMA COMMUNITY HOUSE

WELCOMING WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13-22, 2024

Join us for a full week of activities celebrating Immigrants and refugees

SATURDAY 9/14 Tacoma Moon Festival with New Citizen Celebration Chinese Reconciliation Park, 1-7pm (FREE) PinataPalooza: Craft, Create, y Celerabral Tacoma Public Library Mottet Branch, 10:30-11:30am (FREE)	MONDAY 9/16 Documentary: To the State of the Good Life with Q&A Tacoma Community House, 4PM-6PM (FREE)	TUESDAY 9/17 Citizenship Clinic Tacoma Community House, 9AM-3PM (FREE) Restaurant Takeover La Cò Bar - All Day Up and Atom: Blue Morpho Butterflies Tacoma Public Library Kobetch Branch, 4PM-5:30PM (FREE)	WEDNESDAY 9/18 Cafe Takeover & STEAM Activity Night Happy Duo Cafe University Place Pierce County Library, 4:30PM-6:30PM Up and Atom: Blue Morpho Butterfly Chat Tacoma Public Library Mottet Branch, 4PM-5:30PM (FREE)	THURSDAY 9/19 Panel + Community Discussion: What Makes Communities Welcoming & How To Support Newcomers Tacoma Community House, 5PM-6:30PM (FREE)	SATURDAY 9/21 Know Your Rights Presentation & Discussion (in partnership with NWIRP and Pueblo Unido PDX) Tacoma Community House, 12PM-2PM (FREE)
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Thank you to our sponsors & partners!

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

- f. Review of By Laws for Committee Formation (15 minutes)
 - o Each Commissioner shall join one Committee.

Acting Chair Valdez-Castro

VII. Presentation from AidNW

7:00 pm – 7:20 pm

Lynette Crumit, Executive 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 – October 28, 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
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