



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, January 22, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #138

Tacoma, WA 98402

The Tacoma Municipal Building is served by Pierce Transit bus routes 1, 2, 11, 16, 45, and 57.

Visit www.triplanner.piercetransit.org to find your route.

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82775537321?pwd=pbDCNh93nh-fUMCY4cYI2Zfc2qu3Tg.e76XT7BvH_P2KSFJ

Passcode: 053473

Webinar ID: 827 7553 7321

I. Call Meeting to Order (5:30 pm) –Chair Ghayoumi

II. Statement of Purpose (5:33 pm) –Commissioner Ruboneka

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 pm) –Commissioner Valdez Castro

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. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Ghayoumi

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson | <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi | <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro. Vice Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate (Vacant) |

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Alicia Sands
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Andy Mejia
Lydia Zepeda

Maurice Lekea

Hieu Nguyen

Andy Mejia – Youth

Hugo Nicolas. Second Vice Chair

V. Consent Agenda (5:40 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi

- a. Approval of January 22, 2024 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of December 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VI. Public Comment (5:40 – 5:50 pm)

VII. Commission Affairs

- a. Training on city government process, registration by February 1, 2024 (5:50 pm to 5:55 pm)
- b. Commissioner Zepeda and Chair Ghayoumi review on changes to states’ attempts to pass immigration laws (5:55 pm to 6:00 pm)
- c. Hate Crimes (6:00 pm to 6:05)
- d. Commissioner Nicolas (Second Vice Chair) Interactive Presentation and Training (6:05 pm to 6:35 pm)
- e. Committee Updates
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, November 8, 2024 (6:36 – 6:40)
 - Questions by Commissioners
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, (6:41 pm – 6:51 pm)
 - Questions by Commissioners
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee (7:01 pm to 7:06 pm)
 - Questions by Commissioners

VIII. Immigration Local News and Updates – Vice Chair (7:07 pm to 7:11 pm)

IX. Presentation

- a. Tacoma Slavic Association presentation (7:12 pm – 7:25 pm)

X. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

- a. Presentation from Washington State Office of Independent Investigation

XII. Adjourn

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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