



Regular Meeting Agenda
Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, 3/25/2024

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 7321Re

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

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

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 Nguyen

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

Commissioners

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

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

- Emani Donaldson
- Natalie Ghayoumi
- Samantha Le
- Lydia Zepeda
- Maurice Lekea
- Andy Mejia – Youth

- Thierry Ruboneka
- Maricres Valdez Castro. Vice Chair
- Alicia Sands
- Alternate (Vacant)
- Hieu Nguyen
- Hugo Nicolas. Second Vice Chair

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

- a. Approval of March 25, 2024 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of February 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VI. Public Comment (5:40 – 5:50 pm)

VII. Commission Affairs

- a. May 2024 meeting
- b. Commissioner Nicolas (Second Vice Chair) second Interactive Presentation and Training
- c. Commissioner Le discussing status of refugee seekers in King County
 - Commissioner Lekea will provide his experience
 - Questions / Discussion by Commissioners
- d. Recruitment Update
- e. Code of Conduct
- f. Committee Updates
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - By-Laws
 - Attendance
 - Questions / Discussion by Commissioners
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Trauma Informed Policing
 - Questions / Discussion by Commissioners
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee
 - Questions / Discussion by Commissioners

VIII. Presentation – N/A

IX. Immigration Local News and Updates – Vice Chair

X. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

- a. Commissioner Lekea on the Welcoming Interactive America

XII. Adjourn

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

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

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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