



Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: June 27th 2022

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91791840410?pwd=d3lyYW44Tm8wT1NrNIU4ekRsWERNQT09>

Meeting ID: 967 9184 0410

Passcode: 264285

Real-time Spanish translation will be available during the meeting.

I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Donaldson

II. Statement of Purpose – Vice Chair Donaldson

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 – Vice Chair Donaldson

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 – Vice Chair Donaldson

- a. Approval of June 2022 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of January - March 2022, May 2022 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

V. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Vice Chair Donaldson

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson (Vice-Chair) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi | <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stacy Kowalski | <input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Leena Vo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Lekea | <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hieu Nguyen | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate (Vacant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo Nicolas | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Position (Vacant) |

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Alma Villegas
Leena Vo
Lydia Zepeda

VI. Group Get-To-Know-You Activity - Vice-Chair Donaldson

- a. Meet and Greet – answer the following questions “If you could make one thing better for your community what would it be???”

VII. City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna

- a. Commissioner Required Training <https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-training>
- b. Welcoming America, Welcoming Network [Home - Welcoming America](#)
- c. Events and Recognition Support for [Welcoming Week - Welcoming America](#) Sept. 9-18
- d. Upcoming Activities, Needs, Events

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. World Refugee Day – Commissioner Maricres
- b. Onboarding Debrief – Vice Chair Donaldson
- c. Chair Position Conversation – Vice Chair Donaldson
- d. Community Events: Are there any events we would like to support. For example, UW Tacoma Latinx Celebration Awards 2022? – Vice Chair Donaldson
- e. Committee Updates and Overview of work
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - Language Access Committee

IX. Public Comment

X. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

XI. 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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Commissioners

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