



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: March 27th, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91791840410?pwd=d3lyYW44Tm8wT1NrNIU4ekRsWERnQT09>

Meeting ID: 967 9184 0410

Passcode: 264285

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Emani Donaldson

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Donaldson

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson | <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) |

III. Statement of Purpose – Commissioner Lydia Zepeda

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.”

IV. Land Acknowledgment – Commissioner Maurice Lekea

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.

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

V. Consent Agenda – Chair Donaldson

- a. Approval of March 2023 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of February 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VI. Public Comment

VII. Presentation

- a. Picture Pac Ave. – Wesley Rhodes, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Commissioner Spotlight Commissioner Stacy Kowalski
- b. Meeting with CERC Update/Needs - Commissioners Castro, Lekea, and Chair Donaldson
 - i. Vote on Welcoming Week Committee
 - ii. Appoint Welcoming Week Committee Members, if the committee is approved
 - iii. Appoint Welcoming Week Chair, if the committee is approved
- c. Recruitment Updates/Needs – Commissioner Villegas, Nicolas and Chair Donaldson
 - i. Vote on Recruitment Committee
 - ii. Appoint Recruitment Committee Members if the committee is approved
 - iii. Appoint Recruitment Chair, if the committee is approved
- d. Committee Updates and Overview of work.
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, 2023-04-19, 11 am to 12 pm
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, 2023-04-12, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

IX. City Staff Updates – Staff Liaison Raeshawna

- a. TPD Convening with CIRA, TACOD, and HRC
- b. Welcoming Interactive Arrangements
- c. Recruitment Review – March 31st 1pm with CVS Chair Ushka
- d. Budget Form Discussion

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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