



Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: December 13th, 2021

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm [5:37 pm Chair Saiyare Called Meeting to Order](#)

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

<https://zoom.us/j/96749278841?pwd=cGJMZTRsbkhKemlsUEgyM0wwRGh4QT09>

Meeting ID: 967 4927 8841

Passcode: 460504

Call-In Number: (253) 215-8782

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Refaei

II. Statement of Purpose – Chair Refaei

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 – Interim Vice Chair Saucedo

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 – Chair Refaei

- a. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes) [Motion to Approve – Lydia Z., 2nd Rafael S.](#)
- b. Approval of October 2021 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes) [Motion to Defer October 2021 meeting minutes approve vote to January 2022 Lydia Z., 2nd Alma Villegas.](#)

V. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Refaei

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Calhoun | <input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Flores (Excused) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Perla Gamboa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hieu Nguyen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saiyare Refaei (Chair) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rafael Saucedo (Interim Vice-Chair) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Sych (Excused) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Position (Vacant) |

Commissioners

Saiyare Refaei (Chair)
 Sandra Sych (Vice Chair)
 Emily Calhoun
 Lydia Zepeda
 Emani Donaldson
 Alma Villegas

Patricia Flores
 Perla Gamboa
 Hieu Nguyen
 Rafael Saucedo
 Alma Vargas

VI. City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna

- a. Landlord-Tenant Information - Landlord-Tenant Coordinator ChiQuata Elder - Trusted messengers in the community. Lydia Handout – and in other languages. Could not find anything on the website. When updating the website, do not have it in other languages. Can evaluate what needs to be on the one-pager.
- b. Commissioner Recruitment – Liaison Raeshawna Ware
- c. Website Updates – Liaison Raeshawna Ware
- d. Other Relevant Updates

VII. Group Get-To-Know-You Activity: Interim Vice-Chair Saucedo

- a. Question: What’s your favorite thing about Tacoma?

VIII. Commission Affairs (60 min)

- a. CIRA Meeting Changes – Chair Saiyare
- b. Community Safety Letter – Chair Saiyare
- c. Leader/Chair Interest - Chair Saiyare
- d. Committees, Boards, & Commissions (CBC) Training Opportunity – feedback and information
- e. Committee Updates (30 min)
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee (Saiyare, Rafael, Sandra)
 - Language Access Committee
 - NW Detention Center Committee

IX. Public Comment

X. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

- a. CBC Connections
- b. Work Plans
- c. Sub Committee Meeting (Standing meetings, put on the agenda)

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

Emily Calhoun
Jason Gamboa
Jefferson Mok (Chair)
Rime Oujdi
Saiyare Refaei (Vice-Chair)
Sandra Sych

Patricia Flores
Perla Gamboa
Hieu Nguyen
Diana Parra
Rafael Saucedo
Vacant

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