



# Agenda

## Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**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)
- b. Approval of August 2021 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

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

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

### VI. City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna

#### 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

- a. Committees, Boards, & Commissions (CBC) Upcoming Training Opportunity – Lucas Smiraldo
- b. Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities – Lucas Smiraldo
- c. Meet and Greet
- d. Afghan Refugee Support Update
- e. Other Relevant Updates: Acknowledgement for 2020 Census

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

- a. Question: What was your very first job?

**VIII. Commission Affairs (60 min)**

- a. UW Tacoma Celebrando Comunidad Sponsorship Categories and Public Comment
- b. Welcoming Week Event Debrief
- c. Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee Meeting Debrief
- d. Committee Updates (30 min)
  - Community Safety Committee
  - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
  - Language Access Committee
  - NW Detention Center Committee

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Items 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**

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  
 Alma Vargas

# NOTES

**Commissioners**

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