



# Agenda

## Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

**Date:** July 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### I. Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Donaldson 5:33pm

### 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 – Commissioner Lydia Zepeda

*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 July 2022 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of June 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 – Commissioner Alma Villegas**

- a. Meet and Greet Question: Share one gift or tradition that has been handed down to you by your ancestors.

**VII. City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna**

- a. Reminder Commissioner Required Training <https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-training>
- b. Reminder Commissioners need to select at least on CIRA committee to support.
- c. Process for supporting community events. 1) Through CERC and if necessary 2) Through a Council Action Memorandum or Council Contingency Request. Guest from the City and CERC.
- d. [Welcoming Week - Welcoming America](#) Sept. 9-18

**VIII. Commission Affairs**

- a. Chair Position **VOTE**: Does anyone want to step in as Chair? If not, Vice Chair Donaldson can step into the role and ask that someone step in as Vice-Chair.
- b. Community Events: Are there any events we would like the Tacoma City Council to support in the community this year? For example, UW Tacoma Latinx Celebration Awards 2022?
- c. Welcoming Week Discussion: What are APCC, KWA, LUSS, Tacoma Community House, and others doing around this time we can elevate as a recommendation for the City of Tacoma to support Welcoming Week. If none, do we want to partner to create an event?
- d. Committee Discussion: Guest of Alma Villegas, Maria Gamez the Language Access Coordinator in the City of Tacoma, would like to brief commissioners interested in Language Justice Committee on upcoming activities CIRA could advise on.
- e. Committee Updates and Overview of work. Please include the next meeting date and time.
  - Community Safety Committee
  - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
  - Language Justice 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>

**Commissioners**

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