



SPECIAL Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Time: 5pm – 6pm

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/87654676275>

Webinar ID: 876 5467 6275

I. Call Meeting to Order (5:00 pm) – 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"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas. Vice Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Lekea | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <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 (5:05 pm) – Commissioner Alicia Sands

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 (5:10 pm) – Commissioner Samantha Le

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

Commissioners

Emani Donaldson
Natalie Ghayoumi
Alicia Sands
Samantha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

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

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.

V. Public Comment (5:10 – 5:15 pm)

VI. Commission Affairs

- a. Commissioner Elections – (5:15 – 5:50pm)
- Election process description
 - Nomination
 - Vote

VII. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements (5:50pm – 6pm)

VIII. Adjourn (6pm)

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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Natalie Ghayoumi
Stacy Kowalski
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
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