



# Regular Meeting Agenda

## Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

**Date:** February 27<sup>th</sup>, 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

Real-time Spanish translation will be available during the meeting.

---

**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 Leena Vo

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

**VI. Public Comment**

**VII. Presentation**

- a. Picture Pac Ave. – Wesley Rhodes, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services
- b. Introduction – Bervin Smith Tacoma Police Department

**VIII. Commission Affairs**

- a. Commissioner Spotlight Commissioner Alma Villegas
- b. CVS Feedback from Annual Report
- c. CIRA Recruitment Expectations Document
- d. Welcoming Interactive Discussion and Vote
- e. Welcoming Week Planning Nedes
- f. Committee Updates and Overview of work.
  - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, 2023-03-15, 11 am to 12 pm
  - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, 2023-03-08, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

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

- a. TPD Convening with CIRA, TACOD, and HRC
- b. Council Contingency Fund Request
- c. Question(s) for CBC Application

**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.lsping.org/knowtheland>



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any of its programs, activities, or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (253) 591-5505. TTY or speech to speech users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.

**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

