



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: May 22nd, 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

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"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands |
| <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 Natalie Ghayoumi

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 May 2023 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - b. Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
- VI. **Public Comment**
- VII. **Presentation**
 - a. Language Access Update – Maria Gamez
- VIII. **Commission Affairs**
 - a. Commissioner Welcome – Commissioner Alicia Sands
 - b. TPD Convening Debrief – Commissioners Lydia Zepeda
 - i. It was the first of what we hope will be many opportunities to build relationships with TPD; with that in mind, what can we gather from the TPD convening that will help inform future work together?
 - c. Welcoming Interactive Debrief – Chair Emani Donaldson and Commissioner Maurice Lekea
 - i. What were the primary takeaways?
 - ii. What ideas are there for Welcoming Week?
 - d. Recruitment Debrief – Commissioners Hugo Nicolas and Hieu Nguyen
 - i. How did the recruitment process go?
 - ii. What feedback do you have on the process?
 - e. Committee Updates
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, 2023-04-19, 11 am to 12 pm
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, 2023-04-12, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
 - Welcoming Week Committee
 - Recruitment Committee
- IX. **City Staff Updates** – Staff Liaison Raeshawna Ware
 - a. Recruiting/Orientation of new Commissioners
 - b. Upcoming Presentations to the Community Safety and Vitality Committee (Welcoming Interactive and TPD Convening)
- X. **Items to Consider for Next Meeting**
 - a. Budget Form Discussion
 - b. June Retreat
- 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>



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