



Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: October 23, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street
Conference Room #243 and #220-A (Interpretation Room)
Tacoma, WA 98402

Zoom (Click the following link to join the meeting):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87654676275>

Webinar ID: 876 5467 6275

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- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Natalie Ghayoumi
- II. Statement of Purpose** – Second Vice Chair Hugo Nicolas
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 Maurice Lekea
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 Natalie Ghayoumi
- Approval of October 2023 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
- V. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences** – Chair Ghayoumi
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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi (Chair) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro – Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo Nicolas – Second Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Lekea | <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda | <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hieu Nguyen | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Position (Vacant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner (Vacant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate (Vacant) |

VI. Public Comments

VII. Commission Affairs

- a. November 2023 and December 2023 Meeting dates
- b. Bylaws amendment update
- c. Proclamation for International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Nov 25th) and International Human Rights Day (Dec 10th)
- d. Committee survey updates
- e. Committee discussion
 - i. Is Welcoming Week a permanent committee?
 - ii. Is Recruitment committee a permanent committee?
 - iii. Should Welcoming and Recruitment committee be merged to an Outreach Committee
 - iv. Should Language Access / Justice committee be added to our committees?
- f. Goals for 2023 and 2024 Discussion
 - i. Bylaws
 - ii. Crimes against immigrants
 - 1. Data collection
 - 2. Advisement to the City Council and TPD
 - iii. Relationship with City of Tacoma
 - iv. Youth involvement and diversification in recruitment to have representatives from all communities;
 - v. Language access
 - vi. Welcoming week program
 - vii. Any suggestions
- g. Community member spotlight by a commissioner
- h. **Committee Updates and Overview of work.**
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - Welcoming week Committee
 - One hour policy / attendance

VIII. City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna

IX. Local news and events relating to CIRA affairs – Vice Chair

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>



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

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