



Special Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Hybrid Tacoma Municipal Building

747 Market Street

Conference Room #243

Tacoma, WA 98402

The Tacoma Municipal Building is served by Pierce Transit bus routes 1, 2, 11, 16, 45, and 57.

Visit www.triplanner.piercetransit.org to find your route.

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 (5:30 pm) – Chair Natalie Ghayoumi

II. Statement of Purpose (5:33 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.”

III. Land Acknowledgment (5:35 pm) – Commissioner Maricres Valdez Castro

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. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Natalie Ghayoumi

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson | <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro. Vice Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maurice Lekea | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hieu Nguyen | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate (Vacant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo Nicolas, Second Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Position (Vacant) |

- V. Consent Agenda (5:40 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi**
- a. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - b. Approval of October 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
- VI. Public Comment (5:40 – 5:50 pm)**
- VII. Commission Affairs**
- a. Mission and Strategic Planning (5:50 – 6:15 pm)
 - b. Report to CVS (6:16 pm to 6:30 pm)
 - c. Bylaws Amendment Update (6:31 – 6:36 pm)
 - d. Committee Updates:
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, November 8, 2024 (6:37 – 6:40)
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, (6:41 pm – 6:49 pm)
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee (6:50 pm to 6:52 pm)
- VIII. Presentation (6:53 pm – 6:59 pm)**
- a. Introducing the presenter – Chair 7:00 pm to 7:01 pm
 - b. Presentation by La Raza Project Manager 7:02 pm to 7:24 pm
 - Questions for the presenter
- IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff (7:25 pm -7:26 pm)**
- a. Announcement: TPD staff
 - b. CIRA volunteer hours
- X. Events and Announcements – Vice Chair Maricres Valdez Castro 7:27-7:30 pm**
- XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements**
- a. Questions for the City
 - b. Questions for TPD
- XII. 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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