



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, September 25, 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 (5:30 pm) – Chair Natalie Ghayoumi

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson | <input type="checkbox"/> Thierry Ruboneka |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natalie Ghayoumi | <input type="checkbox"/> Maricres Valdez Castro. Vice Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas |
| <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. Second Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Position (Vacant) |

III. Statement of Purpose (5:33 pm) – Commissioner Hieu Nguyen

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 (5:35 pm) – Commissioner Thierry Ruboneka

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
Alicia Sands
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Hieu Nguyen

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

- V. **Consent Agenda (5:40 pm)** – Chair Ghayoumi
 - a. Approval of July 2023 Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - b. Approval of July 2023 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

- VI. **Public Comment (5:40 – 5:50 pm)**
 - a. **Youth Presentation**

- VII. **Commission Affairs**
 - a. Commissioner Spotlight – Commissioner/Vice Chair Maricres Valdez Castro **(6:10 – 6:20 pm)**
 - b. Bylaws Amendment Vote – Attendance **(6:20 – 6:29 pm)**
 - c. **Goals for CIRA (6:30 pm – 6:50)**
 - d. November Retreat Scheduling & Planning Committee Updates
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, 2023- 9/13/2023, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm **(6:51 – 6:55)**
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, **(6:56 pm – 7:06 pm)**
 - Welcoming Week Committee (7:07 pm to 7:17 pm)

- VIII. **City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff (7:18 pm – 7:23 pm)**
 - a. Announcement OEHR Staff Assistant Director and Human Rights Manager
 - b. Announcement CIRA Staff Liaison Support
 - c. Update Welcoming Week

- IX. **Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements (7:23 pm – 7:30 pm)**
 - a. Announcement; How to help undocumented veterans. Second Vice Chair Nicolas

- X. **Adjourn (7:30 pm)**

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

Emani Donaldson
 Natalie Ghayoumi
 Stacy Kowalski
 Samatha Le
 Maurice Lekea
 Hieu Nguyen

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 Thierry Ruboneka
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