



# Minutes

## Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

**Date:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

<https://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 Sych 5:30pm

### II. Statement of Purpose – Chair Sych

#### Statement read

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 –Vice Chair Donaldson

#### Statement read

*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 Sych

- a. Approval of Meeting Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes) **Perla, moved. Lydia, second. Motion passed.**
- b. Approval of January 2021 Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes) **No motion. Minutes were not available for review or approval.**

### V. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences – Chair Sych

<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Perla Gamboa	Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Emani Donaldson (Vice-Chair)	Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Hieu Nguyen	Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rafael Saucedo	Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandra Sych (Chair)	Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda	Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Alma Villegas	Present

#### Commissioners

Sandra Sych (Chair)  
 Lydia Zepeda  
 Emani Donaldson (Vice Chair)  
 Alma Villegas

Perla Gamboa  
 Hieu Nguyen  
 Rafael Saucedo

Vacant

Alternate Position (Vacant)

Sandra: Acknowledgement and remember victims of the global conflicts in Ukraine, Somalia, Syria, Palestine, Libya, and other regions. Just want to ask everyone to keep advocating for peaceful resolutions to these conflicts

## VI. **Group Get-To-Know-You Activity:** Vice-Chair Donaldson

Where are you now, what did you want to do when you were younger.

Emani: Case manager now. In the past law/policy/attorney

Perla: Language Access in a state agency, a new job with a different government agency as an Outreach and community partnership manager. In the past, I wanted to be a ballerina.

Lydia: Volunteering for a bunch of things, technically retired. In the past, I wanted to be a singer.

Sandra: In the past, I wanted to be an archaeologist. I currently work for Pierce County Adi's foundation. I manage a housing program for those with HIV/AIDs.

Alma: In the past theater, have a band. Most of my life is in non-profit and consulting.

Lisa: In the past, I just wanted to stay at home and be a mom. My current role is Chief Equity Officer and an accountant by trade.

Raeshawna: In the past, I wanted to be Janet Jackson. Current role Senior Policy Analyst and REAPs for the department. I work part-time for a school in engineering technology.

Mac: In the past, I wanted to be a dentist astronaut, and fantasy writer. Now I work in the Office of Management and Budget.

Reid: In the past, I wanted to play soccer. Now I work in the Office of Management and Budget.

TPD Officer Ali: I always wanted to be a detective. Now I am a TPD officer and more interested in a leadership position as a sergeant.

Hieu: Social service as Korean Women's Associations. I thought I'd be a businessman.

## VII. **City Staff Updates – Liaison Raeshawna**

### a. CIRA recruitment update

31 applicants to the commissions. By extending the process we were able to get many more. The next step is to work with another staff liaison to go through applications and go through criteria to recommend to CM Ushka, we will solidify the names and meet with CM Ushka to discuss the criterion. Sandra: someone from CIRA should participate in the application review. A scenario was described around how to support commissioners who speak different languages and need interpretation during interviews and how we support diverse language speakers in smaller settings before interpreters arrive to help build relationships. CIRA is a catalyst for all of the language work the city is moving forward. Also, in-person training would be helpful.

### b. Discussion on Raeshawna's availability for one-on-one consultations. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to meet with me. I would like to touch basis with you to hear your concerns.

### c. Budget presentation. Reid B. and Mac A. from the Office of Management and Budget commit to answering continual questions about the budget. Commissioners would like to know more about the commission budget and where they can offer input on the City.

## VIII. **Commission Affairs (50 min)**

### a. Finalize work plan– Chair Sych, Liaison Raeshawna (10 min) There will be another form we can create to capture the work plans. Until then we ask that you send your work plan to Chair Sych and Raeshawna.

#### **Commissioners**

Sandra Sych (Chair)  
Emily Calhoun  
Lydia Zepeda  
Emani Donaldson (Vice Chair)  
Alma Villegas

Perla Gamboa  
Hieu Nguyen  
Rafael Saucedo

- b. Request to send Committees' minutes to Raeshawna and the rest of the Commission (10 min)  
Please send Raeshawna all committee minutes after meetings for records. Raeshawna will begin a process of information sharing.
- c. Committee Updates (30 min)
  - Community Safety Committee (Inclusive of the NW Detention Center)  
Lydia: Met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb. Had an update from TPD regarding incidents in the Lincoln Communities that have been determined not to be hate crimes. Saiyare was absent so we did not get the NW detention center. Sandra and Lydia will be going to the meeting with City Council for the NW Detention Center. Blue Cards are not very helpful to immigrant and refugee communities with language. Neighborhood and Community Services – possible using QR codes linking them to resources in their languages to victims of crimes. Community safety survey – translated via good docs. Hieu at the KWA will ask members to review the languages to make sure they are making sense to people in the languages the survey has been translated in. We have trusted partners to enumerate the survey. Partners will not be compensated because we have no budget. We are working on a purpose to be posted on the website.
  - Governance (of CIRA) Committee  
Sandra: Was unable to meet this month. Exchanged information via email. Met with Raeshawna to talk about recruiting and onboarding. Our next meeting will be about onboarding.
  - Language Access Committee  
Perla: LAC did not meet this month. Part of the work we are doing is with our research partners in the UWT. There was an event about the indigenous languages. We would like to continue working on this. Alma can come representing CIRA. Today is Perla's last meeting and Alma V. will be the committee chair. Perla will send information pertinent to documents and Alma will continue the work.

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:**

**XI. Adjourn 7:35pm**

**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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# NOTES


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