

## Tacoma Human Rights Commission

**BUSINESS MEETING**

August 19, 2021

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Laurie Lynch, Andre Jimenez, Amanda Westbrooke, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Mason Culbertson, Taniesha Lyons, Verda Washington, Anita Snyder

**AGENDA****Call to Order** (1 min)**Roll Call** (1 min)**Approval of Business Meeting Agenda** (1 min)

Commissioner Westbrooke motions to approve the agenda

Commissioner Culbertson seconds

**Approval of July Meeting minutes** (2 mins)

Commissioner Lynch motions to approve the July minutes

Commissioner Jimenez seconds

**Staff Reports** (5 mins)

Introduction of Dr. Kim Watson-Washington

**New Business** (30 mins)

Homelessness Ends With Racial Equity Press Conference

Employment Case Reports- The investigator explained basics of the *McDonald Douglas* framework and employment discrimination basics.

Phased Reopening- Chair Lemons asked for the specifics of what the City is doing. Andreta Armstrong noted that the City is not returning to in person until in November.

Housing Equity Task Force-

Update on BLM Mural- Artist Interviews- Last Monday, Chair Lemons, Vice Chair Nobles, and Andreta Armstrong interviewed artists for the BLM mural. They have selected Dionne Bonner to be the artist. Andreta Armstrong recognizes the Commission's work in the mural process.

**Public Comment** (2 mins)

**Announcements (10 mins)**

Heal the Heart Update- Commissioner Washington reported that there was a healing circle over at Evergreen Community College, they will now get people from the community to help. Every Friday morning, the Pierce County Housing Task force convene.

Share upcoming events

Support for Afghan Refugees- Chair Lemons talks about the ongoing Afghanistan crisis

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> there is going to be a ribbon cutting at South 64<sup>th</sup> Street and Pacific Avenue to celebrate changes and upgrades to the intersection. Wheelchair accessibility, Sidewalks will be highlighted.

**Adjournment**

Tacoma Human Rights Commission  
**STUDY SESSION**  
August 19, 2021

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Laurie Lynch, Andre Jimenez, Amanda Westbrooke, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Mason Culbertson, Taniesha Lyons, Verda Washington, Anita Snyder

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order (1 min)**

**Homeless Strategy Presentation (30 mins)**

Kristin Ely- Neighborhood & Community Services Department

Commissioner Washington asked about The City's long term response to the homelessness crisis in lieu of the eviction moratorium

Commissioner Oswal asks about the percentages of BIPOC individuals experiencing homelessness

Kristin Ely spoke about interviewing individuals going through homelessness and indicated that they want their own space or microshelter in their own neighborhood.

Commissioner Jimenez notes that housed individuals and businesses have overrepresented the dialogue. He wants to make sure that is not the entirety of the question.

Chair Lemons inquires what the term "real solutions" mean. Kristin Ely says that term means "tangible" Chair Lemons also asks when the work will be done.

Kristin Ely says that the work has been going on, in earnest, since 2017, they have been putting out "fires" in terms of homelessness. NCS is going to Council with a draft strategy by the fall of this year.

Commissioner Jimenez asks where NCS fits into the coalition to end homelessness.

Kristin Ely says that their job is to pay attention to all have the developments, but that there is special responsibility incumbent on them as funders and regulators.

Commissioner Culbertson wants to know if there is any attempt to partner with the Puyallup tribe on this issue?

Kristin Ely says that they are starting conversations with the tribe. There is no solution that has been reached.

Chair Lemons points out that Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective is looking to partner with the City for hydration stations.

Kristin Ely indicated that the City would be able to partner with Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective.

**Housing Equity Task Force Discussion (25 mins)**

**Adjournment**

Tacoma Human Rights Commission  
**BUSINESS MEETING**

**DATE** August 19, 2021

**TIME** 6:30 p.m.

**PLACE** Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92111668520?pwd=SkR0WllpU2dWWE1yR3ZSZ3ZQSkglZz09>

Meeting ID: 921 1166 8520

Password: 274234

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order** (1 min)

**Roll Call** (1 min)

**Approval of Business Meeting Agenda** (1 min)

**Approval of July Meeting minutes** (2 mins)

**Staff Reports** (5 mins)

Employment Case Reports

**New Business** (30 mins)

Phased Reopening

Update on BLM Mural- Artist Interviews

**Public Comment** (2 mins)

**Announcements** (10 mins)

Heal the Heart Update

Share upcoming events

**Adjournment**