

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

**STUDY SESSION**

December 16, 2021

**Commissioners Present:** Mason Culbertson, JR Nobles Courtney Acoff, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons, Laurie Lynch, Anita Snyder

**Call to Order:**

**Year-End Review:** Chair Lemons gives a presentation on the activities of the Human Rights Commission in 2020 & 2021. These activities and accomplishments include:

- Policy & Advocacy sent a letter to City Council in support of Resolution 40622
- Policy & Advocacy sent a letter to City Council in opposition of the ending of the HUD and EEOC contracts.
- Policy and Advocacy sent a letter to City Council on behalf of the Tacoma Mutual Aid Collective asking for portable bathrooms and handwashing stations.
- Advocacy of the BLM Mural Project
- Dionne Bonner selected to create and paint the BLM mural.

Chair Lemons thanks the outgoing Commissioners.

Commissioner Culbertson hopes that the HRC will improve its deliberations.

Commissioner Washington comments on economic trends and affordable housing in Tacoma.

Commissioner Boullt wants the HRC to communicate more about affordable housing resources and the history of Tacoma.

**Ordinance 28800**

- Revamping of Ordinance 28756, the public camping ban. Policy & Advocacy wrote several opposition letters.
- Contents of resolution are very similar.
- Voted down by the Councilmembers
- Sent back to CVS Committee for a second time

**Adjournment**

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

**BUSINESS MEETING**

December 16, 2021

**Commissioners Present:** Mason Culbertson, JR Nobles Courtney Acoff, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Keshreeyaji Oswal, Amanda Westbrooke, Verda Washington, Andre Jimenez, Michealea Lemons, Laurie Lynch, Anita Snyder

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Business Meeting Agenda:** Commissioner Westbrooke makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Jimenez seconds. The motion passes.

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** Commissioner Nobles makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Culbertson seconds. The motion passes.

**Staff Reports:** Andreta Armstrong reports that two vacant positions in the Office of Equity & Human Rights. The Outreach Human Specialist will work under OEHR leadership about Fair Housing. The Assistant Chief Equity Officer in the Office of Equity and Human Rights is also vacant.

Chair Lemons notes the importance of making the public aware of these positions. Chair Lemons notes that any City employees cannot be Human Rights Commissioners.

Andreta Armstrong also reports about new hires within the Office of Equity and Human Rights.

**New Business**

Chair Lemons explains the expiration of Commissioner Terms and encourages the HRC to re-apply. Chair Lemons explains the re-application process.

Commissioners Westbrooke, Snyder, Culbertson and Lyons have expiring terms.

Commissioner Westbrooke inquires about the interview process. Chair Lemons clarifies her experience. Chair-Elect Jimenez will reach out to Councilmember Ushka to assure no lapse in HRC leadership.

**Committee Updates**

Race Justice & Advocacy: Chair Lemons will send an email with an update.

Andreta Armstrong has communicated with Dionne Bonner about a survey regarding the BLM mural outreach efforts.

Education & Outreach: Commissioner Lynch reports that a meeting date has been chosen and a concern with a Tik Tok influenced lockdown of Tacoma Schools.

Policy & Advocacy: Commissioner Oswal is creating a COVID hesitancy survey. Chair Elect Jimenez wants to work with the CVS committee with camping ban issues.

Commissioner Lyons announces that Vibrant Schools will be hosting a retreat.

Chair Lemons mentions that volunteers are needed for Clover Park.

Vice Chair Nobles wants to recognize the work of the individual commissioners for their work outside of the Human Rights Commission.

Chair Lemons mentions the selection of a new Tacoma Police Chief.

**Adjournment**