

Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Study Session

Date: Monday, October 9, 2023

Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Study Session

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/81908915518>

Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

STUDY SESSION

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

- Called to Order at 5:38 PM by ViceChair Robbi Johnston

Presentation by University of Washington: Center for Human Rights

Given by: Director Angelina Godoy and Associate Professor Michael Forman

Recording Available at: (copy/paste into your browser)

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/-](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/-rwK3IC2v0Ki4iJytLKt1sUC46BR1YYBCknbammgKY66kD90g3zqka9eiK086mK.MgnS2YdUxV3HU48s?startTime=1696898627000)

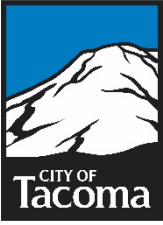
[rwK3IC2v0Ki4iJytLKt1sUC46BR1YYBCknbammgKY66kD90g3zqka9eiK086mK.MgnS2YdUxV3HU48s?startTime=1696898627000](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/-rwK3IC2v0Ki4iJytLKt1sUC46BR1YYBCknbammgKY66kD90g3zqka9eiK086mK.MgnS2YdUxV3HU48s?startTime=1696898627000)

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Commissioners

Amanda Westbooke
C. Ivan Johnson
Janice Langbehn
Keshreyaji Oswal
Bri Crofton
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington
Laurie Lynch
Mason Culbertson
Melvin JR Nobles
Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt



Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting

Date: Monday, October 9, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Business Meeting

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/81908915518>

Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

- I. Call Meeting to Order** – Vice Chair Robbi Johnston
- Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

- ~~Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her) – excused~~
- ~~Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them) – excused~~
- Robbi Johnston, Vice Chair (she/her)

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- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)
- Janice Langbehn (she/her)
- ~~Verda Washington (she/her) excused~~
- ~~Melvin JR Nobles (he/him)~~
- Bri Crofton (they/them)
- C. Ivan Johnson (he/him)
- ~~Ronita Boullt (she/her)~~
- Lillian Norris (she/her)
- Laurie Lynch (she/her)

III. Approval of October 2023 Business Meeting Agenda – Vice Chair Johnston

- a. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda.
- b. Commissioner Norris seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the Business Agenda is approved.

IV. Statement of Purpose – Commissioner Crofton

We convene this meeting to study and investigate problems of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination and to encourage and coordinate the implementation of programs consistent with the needs and rights of all residents of the City of Tacoma.

V. Land Acknowledgment – Commissioner Crofton

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 all residents 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.

VI. Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Johnston

- a. Approval of September 2023 Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - i. Commissioner Lynch made a motion to approve the September minutes.
 - ii. Commissioner Crofton seconded the motion.
 - iii. The Ayes have it and the September Minutes are approved.

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

VIII. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates – none offered
- b. Committee Updates

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- i. Education and Outreach
 - 1. Chair Norris
 - No September meeting
- ii. Policy, Advocacy, and Accountability
 - 1. Chair Oswal
 - Is the Human Rights training still available for commissioners? Staff to confirm availability of funds to pay for training.
 - September meeting was postponed, no updates
 - Potential work projects related to policy advocacy letters (specifically related to detention center and homeless response by city)
 - i. CVS presentation?
 - Request to review other City CBC websites (specifically environmental services commission) to include meeting logistics and improve accessibility to community members (Staff to complete)
- iii. Racial Justice
 - 1. No September meeting – need to plan a meeting prior to October meeting

IX. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates
 - i. Case Closures
 - 1. Fair Housing – 1 case closed
 - 2. Employment – 4 cases closed

X. Announcements

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting

XII. Adjourn

- a. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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>

Commissioners

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NOTES

Commissioners

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