



Minutes
Human Rights Commission
Study Session

Date: Monday, January 8, 2024

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

- Presentation: City of Tacoma Civil Rights Investigations Data Project 2016- 2023 presented by Outreach Specialist Alejandra Villeda

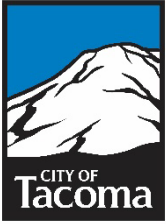
Topics discussed based on presentation:

- Review unemployment rates in Tacoma and per district and see how it correlates with where discrimination complaints are originating from.
- Review point in time homeless community counts/rates and compare to fair housing discrimination complaints in Tacoma and per district.
- District 4 has lowest reporting
 - How do we target outreach in District 4? Build trust/lower barriers?

Commissioners

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

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



Minutes
Human Rights Commission
Business Meeting

Date: Monday, January 8, 2024

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):

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BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

I. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Amanda Westbrooke

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.

II. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences

- Amanda Westbrooke, Chair (she/her)
- ~~Mason Culbertson, Vice Chair (they/them)~~ absent
- Robbi Johnston, Vice Chair (she/her)
- Keshreeyaji Oswal (he/him)

Commissioners

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Robbi Johnston
Ronita Boullt
Lily Nop

- Janice Langbehn (she/her)
- Verda Washington (she/her)
- Melvin JR Nobles (he/him)
- ~~Bri Crofton (they/them)~~ excused
- ~~C. Ivan Johnson (he/him)~~ absent
- ~~Ronita Boullt (she/her)~~ absent
- Lillian Norris (she/her)
- Laurie Lynch (she/her)
- Lily Nop, Youth Seat (she/her)

III. Approval of January 2024 Business Meeting Agenda – Chair Westbooke

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

IV. Statement of Purpose – Commissioner Langbehn

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 Oswal

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 –Chair Westbrooke

- a. Approval of December 2023 Minutes Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - a. *Commissioner Langbehn made a motion to approve the December 2023 Minutes.*
 - b. *Commissioner Lynch seconded the motion.*
 - c. *The Ayes have it and the December 2023 Minutes record is approved.*

VII. Public Comment (2 minutes per speaker)

Commissioners

Amanda Westbrooke
 C. Ivan Johnson
 Janice Langbehn
 Keshreeyaji Oswal
 Bri Crofton
 Lillian Norris

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

No Public Comments were offered.

VIII. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff

- a. General Updates
 - i. Recruitment Outreach
 - 1. Applications reviewed and Interview/Appointment on February 8, 2024 or February 22, 2024 depending on CVS availability.
 - ii. CVS Presentation – Year End Report
 - 1. Content to be included?
 - *Recommendations to include in year end report included recruitment, retreat, reinvigoration of committees, case closures, outreach, events (esp. Juneteenth), BLM mural, commission convening, public comment issues being brought to HRC, commissioners completing Human Rights training*
 - 2. To be presented at CVS on February 8, 2024.
- b. Case Closures
 - i. 1 Fair Housing Case
 - ii. 1 Employment Case
- c. Upcoming Engagement Opportunities
 - i. MLK Celebration, Monday, January 15th at Tacoma Convention Center
 - ii. Lunar New Year at Eastside Community Center, January 28th
 - iii. Lunar New Year at Lincoln District, February 11th

IX. Commission Affairs

- a. Chair Updates
- b. Committee Updates
 - i. Education and Outreach
 - 1. Chair Norris

January meeting to be coordinated, Zoom link to be updated

- ii. Policy, Advocacy, and Accountability
 - 1. Chair Oswal

Human Rights training Update, Shared Drive update, will be meeting to discuss 2024 workplan, potential to focus on harm from sweeps, also add agendas to website from 2017 and 2018 for transparency and historical reference.

- iii. Racial Justice
 - 1. Chair

Have not met.

X. Announcements

Commissioners

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Lily Nop

Change to zoom platform for webinars where email/name are required. Is this decreasing accessibility? Is there a way to remove this step?

XI. Items to Consider for Next Meeting:

- a. Home in Tacoma Presentation at next Study Session

XII. Adjourn

- a. Chair Westbrooke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.
- b. Commissioner Langbehn seconded the motion.
- c. The Ayes have it and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 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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NOTES

Commissioners

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C. Ivan Johnson
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