

Tacoma Human Rights Commission
STUDY SESSION

DATE February 20, 2020

TIME 5:30 p.m.

PLACE Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order (1 min)**
- 2. Committee Meetings (30 mins)**
- 3. Commission Google Calendar Overview (20 mins)**
- 4. Adjournment**

Tacoma Human Rights Commission
BUSINESS MEETING

DATE February 20, 2020
TIME 6:30 p.m.
PLACE Conference Room 243, Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market St.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** (1 min)
2. **Roll Call** (1 min)
3. **Approval of Business Meeting Agenda** (1 min)
4. **Approval of January Study Session and Business Meeting minutes** (5 mins)
5. **Public Comment** (2 mins per speaker)
6. **Staff Reports** (10 mins)
7. **Chairs Report** (15 mins)
 - HRC Interview Updates
 - March Commission meeting
8. **Commissioner Reports** (10 mins)
 - Committee & Task Force Updates
9. **New Business** (15 mins)
 - HRC Retreat 2020 Update
 - Discuss April Commission meeting
10. **Adjournment**

Human Rights Commission

Study Session Notes

January 16, 2020

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Kim Tosch, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran

Commissioners Absent: Melvin Nobles, Jr., Sarah Lee, Natalie Collins

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor

Call to Order

Chair Lemons called the Study Session to order at 5:32pm,

Chair Lemons also acknowledged the meeting of the Human Rights Commission is taking place on the traditional land of the Puyallup Tribe both past and present.

Community and Economic Development Department

Daniel Murillo and Darian Lightfoot, Community and Economic Development Department

- Provided a presentation and overview for the Tacoma-Lakewood plan for 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan.
- The City of Tacoma is in the processing of updating the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. This 5-year plan sets goals and actions for expenditure of several federal grants. Funds are generally intended to benefit lower-income person and neighborhoods, but can be used for housing.
- The staff have been working with a consultant, Enterprise Community Partners since October 2019 to help review past research and work to help guide towards an updated and new consolidated plan.
- The Community and Economic Development Department has been collecting information from residents in Tacoma through community meetings, public hearings, focus groups, and personal interviews.
- A draft of the Consolidated Plan will be completed in the end of March and is scheduled to be presents at the Planning Commission for review and feedback.
- The draft will go to study session for review at the end of March and release for public comment during the month of April.
- The final plan will be approved and adopted by City Council in May 2020.
- If the HRC has further suggestions for the department working on this plan, the suggestions can be submitted through Andreta.

Committee Meetings

The Chair adjourns at 6:32 pm

Human Rights Commission

Business Meeting Notes

January 16, 2020

Commissioners Present: Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr, Kim Tosch, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Lee, Natalie Collins

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor

Call to Order

Chair Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

Roll Call

A quorum was present

Approval of the January Business Meeting Agenda

- **Commissioner Snyder** moved to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Tran** seconded.
- **The business meeting agenda is approved.**

Approval of December Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes

- **Commissioner Tran**, asked for corrections to the December business minutes, under the section of Commissioner Reports for the Policy and Advocacy “...*Is there a date of when people are assaulted?*” The statement should say “Is there a data base of when people are assaulted? Also, to have correction done to “Motion was presented for continuing support...” to “Motion was present for continuing to support...”
- **Commissioner Ratcliffe**, on the Approval of November Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes, it should read Commissioner, not Chair Ratcliffe, also the spelling of Ratcliffe should have an “e” on the end as this was missing from the minutes.

Commissioner Ratcliffe moved to approve the minutes, with the edits. **Commissioner Tran** seconded.

The December study session and business meeting minutes is approved.

Public Comment

Jeremy Oliver, student at University of Washington, Tacoma. Along with others are enrolled in an Urban Governance Class, part of the requirement for students is to attend a government meeting. The Human Rights Commission meeting was the first opportunity for the students to attend a meeting.

Chair Reports

- **Chair Lemons** – Chair is the process to setting up meetings with 1st and 2nd chair and how they would like to shape the future of the HRC for the coming year.

Commissioner Reports

- **Policy and Advocacy**

Commissioner Tran discussed the plans their committee has been working on to removing domestic violence as a chronic public nuisance from the Tacoma Municipal Code.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

A meeting was attended with CIRA regarding the data on how police respond to different communities with language barriers. There was also discussion around communities setting up block parties, so neighbors could spend time meeting and knowing who their neighbors are to make the neighborhoods safer.

Commissioner Tosch, will be collecting Purses and Backpacks for the Community Domestic Violence Advocacy Program through January 31, 2020.

Commissioner Tran, moved to have the collected Purses and Backpacks include information about the HRC with permission from the Puyallup Tribe. **Commissioner Snyder** seconded the motion.

The motion is approved

- **Racial Justice and Equity**

Chair Lemons, RJEC will be meeting the first week in February with Lawrence Garrett.

1st Chair Nobles, reminded the HRC to find something in the public that ties to Racial Justice and Equity in Tacoma as January 20th, is Martin Luther King Day. This is a time to celebrate the work done to provide racial justice and equity in the City of Tacoma.

- **Education and Outreach**

Commissioner Snyder, the committee is looking at what the different focuses should be for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Rumbaugh, discussed who in the community needs to be reached through their committee around education and outreach, and making sure these groups are being reached.

- **Housing Task Force**

Task force members met with Diane Powers and Andreta Armstrong to discuss possible work plans for this task force, will be multi-layered since the plans are to meet with different entities at City of Tacoma that work on housing issues.

A discussion the chair will have with the 1st and 2nd chairs is if the task force should be opened up to the entire commission since there will be different areas of community engagement which could benefit from having the entire HRC involved.

New Business

- **HRC Retreat 2020** – No final date has been set for the retreat. Commissioners can start to brainstorm ideas and topics to discuss at the retreat in April, actual date in April has not been set.

Staff Reports

- City staff, Wesley Taylor reported out one housing case:

HRC # 4882 – Brooke Ervin v. Westside Estates Apartments – Pre-Finding Settlement

Commissioner Ratcliffe moved to approve the proposed settlement. **Commissioner Tosh** seconded.
The Pre-Finding Settlement was approved.

The Chair adjourns at 7:30pm.

Policy & Advocacy Committee's Current Work Plan: February 20, 2020
Commissioner Members: Chair Kim Tosch, Julie Tran, & Sarah Nuñez

Last Committee meetings: February 11, 2020 12PM

Next Committee meeting: March 6, 2020 12PM

POLICY & ADVOCACY (P&A) COMMITTEE'S FOCUS

- *To identify and study relevant human rights community issues through various methods, analyze its research, vote on its conclusions, and submit recommendations to the Human Rights Commission and then the Tacoma City Council for consideration and approval.*
- *To identify human rights problems, seek public support for solutions, make recommendations to the Council, decide on courses of action, organize task forces as necessary, and/or build coalitions of support by communicating and collaborating with other relevant city boards, commissions, committees, and non-profit organizations.*

2020 PROJECTS

I. NW DETENTION CENTER: JURISDICTION CLARIFICATION

GOALS: Clarify the jurisdiction of TPD in relation to the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC); Obtain memorandum of understanding with TPD and GEO (agency contracted to run NWDC) to address what procedures are needed to be in place when an incident occurs among the detainees.

TASK: Sarah Nuñez will contact Rocio Chavez; former Advocacy Manager at Tacoma Community House, who had a case with these concerns. Rocio had met with the Chief of TPD, Ramsdell.

UPDATES

Feb 20, 2020

Sarah Nuñez contacted Andreta Armstrong for further information and to see if the City of Tacoma is involved in the state-wide discussion re: the ban of private prisons.

2019 - 2020 PROJECTS (Still in Progress)

(see Jan 2020 Work Plan update for the full 2019 work on this project)

II. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

GOALS: Collaborate with Pierce County Coalition Against Trafficking (PCCAT) and the Puyallup Tribe to address human rights violations against victims of human trafficking (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women); Invite PCCAT and the Puyallup Tribe to speak at a HRC meeting; Make recommendation to HRC and City Council.

UPDATES

Feb 20, 2020

For January's Human Trafficking Awareness month, Puyallup Tribe's CDVAP held a backpack and purse drive. Julie Tran presented a motion for HRC to collect and accept items for donation and both Kim Tosch & Julie Tran made drop offs during the month of January.

Next steps: P&A Committee will attend the next Puyallup Tribe' MMIW conference planning meeting on February 24th.

Jan 16, 2020

Upon the Committee's request, Carolyn DeFord presented at HRC's December meeting and discussed the MMIW issue. Kim Tosch attended CDVAP's first planning meeting for tribal MMIW Conference and Laura mentioned they will need volunteers. However, it's unclear what the capacity will be for volunteers. Kim Tosch assisted in connecting potential speakers and both Pierce County Prosecutor Mary Robnett and Attorney Eric Bauer have confirmed for the event.

III. AMEND TMC 8.30A:

REMOVE "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" AS A "CHRONIC PUBLIC NUISANCE"

GOAL: Remove "Domestic Violence" from the Chronic Public Nuisance code list in order to reduce eviction, prevent escalating rents from owner's fines, and the homelessness of DV victims, which are disproportionately women of color, and support the City's policy of supporting victims and encouraging victims to report DV without fear of penalties.

UPDATES

Feb 20, 2020

On behalf of the P&A Committee, Sarah Nuñez, presented and made recommendations for amending TMC 830A and removing domestic violence as a chronic public nuisance code to the CVS Committee during their January meeting. The city council committee voted to forward the recommendation to the full council for a vote.

Next steps: Proposed amendment will be read for the first time at the full city council meeting on February 18th. It will be read for the second time, and voted upon, by the full city council on February 25th. Kim Tosch and Rebecca Stith will be attending the February 25th meeting and may testify during public comments.

Jan 16, 2020

Julie Tran prepared an internal memo re: 2018 Tacoma DV Needs Assessment for the P&A Committee's review and requested assistance from Commissioner Rumbaugh to help gain a status update. Commissioner Rumbaugh contacted Anita and it was confirmed that the topic has been added to the Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee's January 23rd meeting. P&A Committee will all be in attendance and have time to present and make recommendations for amending TMC 830A.