

Human Rights Commission
Special Business Meeting (Via Zoom Conference Meeting)
Minutes
July 9, 2020

Commissioners Present: Melvin Nobles, Jr, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boult, Taniesha Lyons

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran, Sarah Nunez

City Staff Present: Andreta Armstrong

Community Members Present: Lydia Zepeda and Michealea Lemons

Vice Chair Melvin Nobles, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6: 45 p.m.

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Approval

- A motion was made and approved to accept the Special Meeting Agenda for July 9, 2020. The Agenda was as follows:
 1. To revise (if necessary) and approve the Black Lives Matter State by the Race and Social Justice Sub-committee. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Minutes

- The body of the proposed Black Lives Matter Statement was as follows:

RE: Human Rights Commission Position on Anti-Black Racism

City of Tacoma Residents:

The City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission supports the Black Lives Matter movement. As such, we echo the sentiments of the Seattle Human Rights Commission and *stand in unity with those protesting the inhumane and cruel behavior of law enforcement agents when they interact with Black and Brown people.*¹ We issue this statement in support against anti-black racism in any and all forms and strive to investigate the impacts of racism within our communities.

As we are committed to this work, we stand united with the families of Manuel Ellis and Said Joaquin and the countless others who have been silenced and brutalized throughout our city, state, and country.

The fight for racial justice is a moral and imperative struggle that belongs to all. The Human Rights Commission will continue to study and investigate problems of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination in order to work towards an anti-racist City of Tacoma.

In solidarity,
s/ Tacoma Human Rights Commission

The above statement was approved by the Commission with exception to the above highlighted area was replaced with, “We issue this statement to affirm our stance against anti-black racism in any and all forms and strive to investigate the impacts of racism within our communities.”

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

Meeting is adjourned at 7:30 pm