



Regular Meeting Agenda

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Date: Monday, June 24, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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/82877122622?pwd=FbHmsjwJibWTHM79AB3QEJztWETK.utpPpGgtC8SsX7Bk>

Meeting ID: 828 7712 2622

Passcode: 98402

I. Call Meeting to Order (5:30 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi

II. Statement of Purpose (5:33 pm) – Commissioner Tenga

We convene this meeting to advance the City of Tacoma’s mission to “reducing barriers to access and participation in Tacoma’s economic, cultural, and civic life for immigrants and refugees.” This Commission aspires to help “make the City more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming for all.”

III. Land Acknowledgment (5:35 pm) – Commissioner Kalembo

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 immigrants and refugees 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.

IV. Record of Attendance and Excusal of Absences (5:38 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi

Thierry Ruboneka

Maurice Lekea

Natalie Ghayoumi

Maricres Valdez Castro. *Vice Chair*

Samantha Le

Alicia Sands

Lydia Zepeda

Hugo Nicolas. *Second Vice Chair*

Commissioners

Natalie Ghayoumi

Alicia Sands

Samatha Le

Maurice Lekea

Iuliia Didkivska

Linus Ngaya

Emmanuella Shasha

Nixon Tenga

Eunice Kalembo

Hugo Nicolas

Thierry Ruboneka

Maricress Valdez-Castro

Andy Mejia

Lydia Zepeda

- Eunice Kalembo
- Nixon Tenga
- Iuliia Didkivska
- Emmanuella Shasha

- Andy Mejia – Youth
- Linus Nyaga
- Thierry Ruboneka

V. Consent Agenda (5:40 pm) – Chair Ghayoumi

- a. Approval of April 22, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
- b. Approval of March 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)

VI. Public Comment (5:45 – 5:50 pm)

VII. Commission Affairs (5:55 pm – 6: 55 pm)

- a. Vice Chair Valdez Castro - Youth Commissioner Andy Mejia

Recommendation and Presentation – Vice Chair Valdez Castro

- b. Bylaws update from discussion with the City of Tacoma legal department – Chair Ghayoumie
- c. New Commissioner Training – Chair Ghayoumie
- d. Update on strategies and committees - Second Vice Chair Nicolas
- e. Welcoming Interactive America – Maurice Lekea
- f. Election for officers for CIRA – Chair Ghayoumie
- g. Committee Updates – Updates from Committee Chairs
 - Governance (of CIRA) Committee Wednesday, meeting held on June 12, 2024
 - Community Safety Committee Wednesday, meeting held on June 11, 2024
 - Welcoming Week / Recruitment Committee

VIII. City Staff Updates – OEHR Staff (6:55 pm – 7:05 pm)

IX. Presentation – Tacoma Community House (7:05 pm – 7:20 pm)

X. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements (7:20 pm – 7:30 pm)

XI. Adjourn (7:30 pm)

Commissioners
Natalie Ghayoumi
Alicia Sands
Samatha Le
Maurice Lekea
Iuliia Didkivska
Linus Ngaya

Emmanuella Shasha
Nixon Tenga
Eunice Kalembo
Hugo Nicolas
Thierry Ruboneka
Maricress Valdez-Castro
Andy Mejia
Lydia Zepeda

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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Commissioners

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