



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

Meeting called to order 5:33 PM.

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

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 -absent

Maurice Lekea - excused

Natalie Ghayoumi

Maricres Valdez Castro. *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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Le | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Sands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Zepeda - excused | <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo Nicolas. <i>Second Vice Chair - absent</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eunice Kalembo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Mejia – Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nixon Tenga - absent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linus Nyaga |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iuliia Didkivska | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emmanuella Shasha - absent | |

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

- a. Approval of June 24, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - *Motion to Amend Agenda to Correct Dates for Agenda and Minutes made by Commissioner Le from April to June (Agenda) and March to May (Minutes)*
 - *Second Motion made by Vice Chair Castro*
 - *Approved*

 - *Motion to approve June Agenda by Vice Chair Castro*
 - *Second by Commissioner Le*
 - *Approved*

- b. Approval of May 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
 - *Motion to approve Minutes by Commissioner Le*
 - *Second by Vice Chair Castro*
 - *Approved*

VI. Public Comment (5:45 – 5:50 pm)

No comments received via email or in person.

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

- a. Vice Chair Valdez Castro - Youth Commissioner Andy Mejia
 - *Congratulations to Commissioner Mejia on his journey to Yale University and thanks for his work as a Commissioner and Community Representative.*

Recommendation and Presentation – Vice Chair Valdez Castro

- *Presentation shared about proposal for City of Tacoma to host an office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs*
 - *Vice Chair Castro to send Canva link to share presentation with other Commissioners.*

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

- *Discussion about how to discuss this proposal with Community, Vitality and Safety Committee. Development of a formal letter to be reviewed at next Business meeting.*
- b. Bylaws update from discussion with the City of Tacoma legal department – Chair Ghayoumi
 - *Chair Ghayoumi shared about a meeting with the Legal Department review of By-law update recommendations.*
 - *By-laws to be reviewed at Governance Committee and then to be brought back to the Commission at large.*
 - *Motion made to review the amended bylaws by Governance Committee by Vice Chair Castro.*
 - *Seconded motion by Commissioner Le.*
 - *Approved*
- c. New Commissioner Training – Chair Ghayoumi – *tabled to next meeting*
- d. Update on strategies and committees - Second Vice Chair Nicolas (*absent*)
- e. Welcoming Interactive America – Maurice Lekea (*absent*)
- f. Election for officers for CIRA – Chair Ghayoumi
- g. Committee Updates – Updates from Committee Chairs
 - *Review of Commissioner’s interest in different committees*
 - 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)

- *Introduction of Vicky McLaurin, Division Manager of Neighborhood and Community Services*

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)

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- *Meeting adjourned at 7:39 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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Commissioners

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Alicia Sands
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