



# City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission

September 9, 2024  
5:30pm  
In Person and Virtual Meeting  
Minutes

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## **In Person Instructions for Public**

747 Market Street  
Conference Room #243  
Tacoma, WA 98402

## **Virtual Meeting Instruction for the Public**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81908915518>

Meeting ID: 819 0891 5518

**Members:** First Vice Chair Verda Washington, C. Ivan Johnson, Lily Nop, Scott Schubert, Mona Baghdadi, Lisa Hamlin, Lohitvenkatesh Oswal, Mary Ann Lara.

## **Business Meeting**

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call** Vice Chair Washington  
5:30 pm-5:33pm

*Meeting called to order at 5:40pm.*

*Commissioners present: First Vice chair Verda Washington, Scott Schubert (excused) Mona Baghdadi, Lisa Hamlin, Lohitvenkatesh Oswal, Mary Ann Lara, C. Ivan Johnson, Lily Nop.*

- II. Statement of Purpose** Commissioner Baghdadi  
5:45pm-5:47pm

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.

- III. Land Acknowledgment** Commissioner Johnson  
5:50pm- 5: 55pm

*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. Consent Agenda** Vice Chair Washington  
6:00pm – 6:06 pm  
a. Approval of September 9, 2024, Agenda (Aye/Nay Votes)

- *Motion to accept the September Agenda made by Commissioner Hamlin, Seconded by Commissioner Baghdadi. Approved.*
- b. Approval of August 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Aye/Nay Votes)
- *Motion to accept the July Meeting Minutes made by Commissioner Nop, Seconded by Commissioner Hamlin, Approved.*

## V. Public Comment

6:15 – 6:20 pm

*All written public comment must be submitted in writing at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

*No public comments made.*

## VI. Commission Affairs

6:20 pm – 7:15 pm

### A. Election of Officers

Vice Chair Washington

- Election of Chair, Second Vice Chair
    - Nominations made on the floor:
      - Chair – Verda Washington nominated by Commissioner Oswal
      - First Chair Nomination: Mona Baghdadi by Commissioner Schubert
      - Second Chair Nomination: Scott Schubert by Mona Baghdadi
- All were approved.

### B. Retreat Review

Vice Chair Washington

- Logistics
- Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 10 am – 4 pm
- Location: The Center for Spiritual Living (206 North J Street)

### D. Committee Updates

Updates from Committee Chairs

- Policy, Advocacy and Accountability Committee – *no meeting held*
- Racial Equity and Justice Committee – *Commissioner Baghdadi*

### **Human Rights Commission Race and Social Justice Committee**

Notes from meeting on 08/28/2024

In attendance:

#### **Commissioners**

Commissioner C. Ivan Johnson Chair

Commissioner Lia Hamlin

Commissioner Mona Baghdadi

Commissioner Verda Washington was unable to attend due to no access on Zoom

#### **Community members**

Carlos Garcia (Director of Youth and Young Adults Services)

#### **Commissioners**

C. Ivan Johnson  
Mona Baghdadi  
Lisa Hamlin  
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington  
Mary Ann Lara  
Lily Nop  
Lohitvenkatesh Oswal  
Kelly Oshiro  
Scott Schubert

Marlin Henderson (The ACT program) Diversion Program for youth 12 -24 years of age.

Corwin Scott and Bryant Wilkerson were unable to attend due to no access on Zoom.

Marlin reported that his team works with youth in the Foster Care system, Juvenile Rehabilitation, and those with mental health issues and those who are committed to Mental Health facilities. The program also works with Gang prevention.

Youth in the juvenile justice system who are incarcerated for a period of 91 days are considered shelter and not homeless and therefore not eligible to get on a waiting list for housing.

There are 56 beds for homeless youth, and during the month of July there were 722 youth seeking shelter.

There was a case discussed during the meeting of a 19-year-old homeless female who received services following the birth of her baby with an organization called Harbor Hope a faith-based non-profit located in Gig Harbor. The young woman was traumatized when the case worker insisted the baby be given up for adoption and then the worker became very angry when the young woman declined to sign a consent form allowing Harbor Hope to relocate the baby out of state. The young woman was traumatized because she was not given an option to keep her baby. The committee is seeking to support the young woman in filing a human rights violation case against Harbor Hope.

- Education and Outreach Committee – *no meeting held*

#### E. Case Closure Report

City Staff

- HRC # 4959, Fair Housing Discrimination based on National Origin, No Reasonable Cause
- HRC # 4961, Fair Housing Discrimination based on Familial Status, No Reasonable Cause
- HRC # 4973, Public Accommodation Discrimination based on Sex and Race, No Reasonable Cause
- HRC # 4911, Fair Housing Discrimination based on Disability, Pre-Finding Settlement
- HCR # 4981, Employment Discrimination based on Retaliation, Withdrawal of Complaint

### VII. City Staff Updates

7:05 pm – 7:20 pm

City Staff

#### a. Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

1. Fair Housing Webinar with Tacoma Housing Authority, Topic National Origin, Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.
2. Tacoma Moon Festival, Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-7pm at the Chinese Reconciliation Park
3. Welcoming Week Activities
- 4.

### VIII. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

Vice Chair Washington

7:20 pm – 7:30 pm

**Items will be discussed at the retreat on September 14, 2024.**

### IX. Adjourn

7:30 pm

#### Commissioners

C. Ivan Johnson  
Mona Baghdadi  
Lisa Hamlin  
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington  
Mary Ann Lara  
Lily Nop  
Lohitvenkatesh Oswal  
Kelly Oshiro  
Scott Schubert

*Motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm made by Commissioner Baghdadi, seconded by Commissioner Hamlin, Approved.*


## **Next In Person and Virtual Meeting –November 4<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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### **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**  
C. Ivan Johnson  
Mona Baghdadi  
Lisa Hamlin  
Lillian Norris

Verda Washington  
Mary Ann Lara  
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Kelly Oshiro  
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