



City of Tacoma

Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

December 16, 2024

5:30 p.m.

In Person and Virtual Meeting

In Person Instructions for Public

747 Market Street
Conference Room #243
Tacoma, WA 98402

Virtual Meeting Instructions for the Public

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82877122622?pwd=vzPBsPX1YvQbOS5haBnEEHqdF0YVld.1>

Meeting ID: 828 7712 2622

Passcode: 98402

Members: Chair Hugo Nicolas, Vice Chair Emmanuella Shasha, Second Vice Chair Iuliia Didkivska, Secretary Lydia Zepeda, Commissioner Natalie Ghayoumi, Commissioner Eunice Kalembo, Commissioner Maurice Lekea, Commissioner Linus Nyaga, Commissioner Thierry Ruboneka, Commissioner Alicia Sands, Commissioner Nixon Tenga, Chair Maricres Valdez-Castro, Youth Commissioner Andy Mejia

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

5:30 – 5:33 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

II. Statement of Purpose

5:33 – 5:35 pm

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 – 5:40 pm

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

5:40 – 5:45 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

- Approval of December 9, 2024, Agenda
- Approval of October 28, 2024, and November 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes

V. Public Comment

5:45 – 5:55 pm

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

VI. Commission Affairs

6:10 pm – 6:40 pm

Review and approve

Chair Hugo Nicolas

- Draft letter re: establishing a Community Safety Outreach and Education Program
- Information for CIRA Website

Know Your Rights by ACLU in English, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Russian and Urdu. They also have emergency plans in

- English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole <https://www.wehaverights.us/>
- English: <https://www.wehaverights.us/>
- Spanish: <https://www.wehaverights.us/spanish>
- Arabic: <https://www.wehaverights.us/arabic>
- Mandarin: <https://www.wehaverights.us/mandarin>
- Haitian Creole: <https://www.wehaverights.us/haitian-creole>
- Russian: <https://www.wehaverights.us/russian>
- Urdu: <https://www.wehaverights.us/urdu>

KYR National Immigration Law Center in English, Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Korean and Spanish: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/>

This is also handy, the difference between an administrative and judicial warrant: <https://x.com/NILC/status/1150476473112788993>

Only a judicial warrant (a warrant from a court, signed by a judge) gives ICE the right to enter a home or nonpublic workspace.

WAISN has a resource finder for immigrants that is very comprehensive: <https://resources.waisn.org/>

They also have a bond fund for those in detention who need assistance with immigration bonds: <https://fairfightbondfund.org/>

- a. Committee Updates (15 minutes) Updates from Committee Chairs
 - i. Governance (of CIRA) Committee
 - 1. Held Second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM
 - ii. Community Safety Committee

VII. Chair's Corner

6:40 pm – 7:00 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

- Commissioner contact list
- Strategic planning prep
- Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) and Roberts Rules of order training

OPMA Links to Trainings:

- Lesson 1: [Open Government Overviews and General Principles - Introduction](#) (web page)
- Lesson 2: [Open Public Records Act Training - Covers the basics of the PRA at RCW 42.56](#) (30 minutes)
- Lesson 3: [Open Public Meetings Act Training - Covers the basics of the OPMA at RCW 42.30](#) (16 minutes)
- Lesson 4: [Records Retention/Management Act Training - Covers the basics of RCW 40.14](#) (39 minutes)
- Lesson 5: [Supplemental Public Records Act Training \(2 videos\)](#) (29 minutes + 28 minutes)

FAQs and Tips:

- [OPMA and PRA Practice Tips and Checklists from MRSC](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Page for OPMA](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Page for PRA](#)
- Zoom, city emails
- Outreach material, swag, table cloth, communications team
- Website links provided by commissioners.
- TIP proposal response and CM Rumbaugh & Chief

VIII. Items to Consider for Next Meeting & Announcements

7:00 pm – 7:15 pm

Retreat scheduled January 25, 2025, from 10am – 2pm
 Eastside Community Center
 1721 East 56th Street
 Tacoma, WA 98404

Name tags and business cards are available when anyone representing the Commission and attending events (Contact Vicky McLaurin for a name tag)

IX. Adjourn

7:15 pm

Next In Person and Virtual Meeting – January 27, 2025

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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