



**City of Tacoma
Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**

**February 24, 2025
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/89513783298?pwd=Py7QmN3kbSF33qY0UQAMeVmThUIBhJ.1>

Meeting ID: 895 1378 3298

Passcode: 288952

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. Discussion with Council Member Sadalge

5:30 – 6:00 pm

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

6:00 – 6:05 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

III. Statement of Purpose

6:05 – 6:10 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."

IV. Land Acknowledgment

6:10 – 6:15 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.

V. Consent Agenda

6:15 – 6:20 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

- Approval of February 24, 2025, Agenda
- Approval of January 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes and retreat notes

VI. Public Comment

6:20 – 6:30 pm

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

VII. Commission Affairs

6:30 pm – 6:45 pm

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

VIII. Chair’s Corner

6:45 pm – 6:50 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

Communication – Chair will approve.

IX. Staff Update

6:50 pm – 7:00 pm

Liaison Guideline

Staffing Updates

X. Review/Excuse Absences

7:00 – 7:10 pm

Chair Hugo Nicolas

XI. Adjourn

7:15 pm

Next In Person and Virtual Meeting – March 24, 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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