



# City of Tacoma

## Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

November 25, 2024

5:30 p.m.

In Person and Virtual Meeting

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### 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

- a. Approval of November 25, 2024, Agenda
- b. Approval of October 28, 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. Presentation from City of Tacoma**

5:55 – 6:10 pm

Accessibility through Language Access

Maria Gamez  
Language Access Program Coordinator

**VII. Commission Affairs**

6:10 pm – 6:40 pm

Review and approve

Chair Hugo Nicolas

- Trauma Informed Policing Proposal to CM Rumbaugh
- Letter of gratitude to Tacoma City Council for advocacy regarding Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) and the transition to the incoming 6th District
- Proposing an ordinance or resolution to become a sanctuary city

Commissioner Ghayoumi

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

1. Death of José Manuel Sánchez Castro at NWIPC on Oct 27 in Medical Segregation

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

6:40 pm – 7:10 pm

Retreat scheduled January 25, 2025, from 10am – 2pm  
Eastside Community Center  
1721 East 56<sup>th</sup> 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**

7:10 pm

**Next In Person and Virtual Meeting – December 23, 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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