

Human Rights Commission Meeting
Study Session

Meeting is Gaveled in at 5:40

- Commissioner Nobles speaks about the BLM statement on Pacific Avenue.
- Andreta Armstrong shares the concerns of the Executive Team about the potential “Black Lives Matter” mural on Pacific Avenue
- Commissioner Lemons inquiries whether the BLM statement needs to be on a city building.
- Commissioner Rumbaugh inquiries whether there could be a mural on a city building.
- Commissioner Tran inquires whether there is a way to engage the community in how the mural is built.

-Commissioner Lemons has a concern about the timing of when the mural could be put up.

- Commissioner Lemons tells the group about an effort to try to use hashtags to bring attention to local Tacoma issues.

Commissioner Nobles notes that Commissioner Lemons has received information from CIRA about a letter that they are writing.

The inquiry is whether the HRC will sign off on the letter. The context of the letter is to request for an FTE to support their work.

-Andreta Armstrong inquires whether the City has been made privy of the proposal.

-Commissioner Trans mentions that the police are not equipped or able to provide the necessary services for the immigrant/ refugee community.

-Commissioner Nobles mentions that the HRC is free to add their own language or to reject the letter as a whole.

- Commissioner Lemons does not want to get rid of the investigators, but she supports having an advocate. She worries about the impact of the budget, especially when the City wants to get rid of investigators.

-Commissioner Tran ventures that option that the Committee might not support CIRA’s specific call to action, but the HRC can support the goal.

-Andreta Armstrong mentions that a FTE might not be likely, but they could support an existing employee that has a immigrant background taking on those responsibilities.

-Commissioner Lemons also supports that proposal

- Andreta Armstrong said the City Clerk has agreed to interview applicants on 9/10.

-Andreta Armstrong has no new updates about the Investigator position. It will be finalized by October. Andreta gives an update of the investigator.

Business Meeting

-It is gaveled in at 6:35

Chair Nobles brings up the BLM mural on Pacific Avenue

Commissioner Ratcliffe opens to explore feasibility of the matter.

The vote is seconded.

Chair Nobles mentions that the HRC is moving forward on this.

-Andreta mentions that should could put a special meeting together to further discuss this issue.

Commissioner Lemons wants to clarify whether the action is to make a subcommittee

-Commissioner Lemons also notes that the Race subcommittee should handle this.

The next item is support for CIRA on their budget item

Commissioner Ratcliffe moves to support their budget item

Commissioner Tran supports

The HRC passes the motion.

The Commissioners start to analyze CIRA's letter.

Commissioner Ratcliffe moves to send the letter to the Tacoma City Council

Commissioner Lyons seconds

The motion to support the letter and it passes.

Andreta Armstrong gives an update on the status of the civil rights investigators.