

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
OBSERVER REPORT**

City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission Special Meeting

July 8, 2020 6:30pm-7:30pm

Observer: Lydia Zepeda

The purpose of this meeting is to finalize Black Lives Matter Statement.

Committee members present: Allen Ratcliffe, Melvin Nobles Jr. Taniesha Lyons, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boult

Community member present: Michealea Lemons

Staff and Liaison present: Andreta Armstrong

Lucas Smiraldo technical host.

Members of the committee not present: Sarah Lee, Kim Tosch, Jennifer Vasilez, Natalie Collins, Rosita Castellano, Carol Mitchell, Sarah Nuñez, Sarah Rambaugh, Julie Tran

The meeting began at 6:41pm, when a quorum was present.

The Commission reviewed a letter with a statement on anti-black racism. The letter does not contain action items because they want to have a statement on those later. The letter was drafted by a committee comprised of Sarah Nunez, Taneisha Lyons, Natalie Collins, Michaela Lemons and Julie Tran.

Essentially the letter says: "The City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission supports the Black Lives Matter movement.... Stands in unity with those protesting the inhumane and cruel behavior of law enforcement agents when they interact with We issue this statement to affirm our stance against anti-black racism in any and all forms and strive to investigate the impacts of racism within our community."

Passed unanimously.

Michaela will send the letter to Mayor and City Council and cc Diane Powers, Andreta Armstrong, and Media and Communication. Media and Communications will publicize it.

Next meeting of the HRC is next Thursday at 5:30 pm, which is the study session; and 6:30 pm for the business meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

A copy of the letter is attached.



July 9, 2020

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Councilmembers
City of Tacoma
Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market St., Suite 1200
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Human Rights Commission Position on Anti-Black Racism

City of Tacoma Residents:

The City of Tacoma Human Rights Commission supports the Black Lives Matter movement. As such, we echo the sentiments of the Seattle Human Rights Commission and *stand in unity with those protesting the inhumane and cruel behavior of law enforcement agents when they interact with Black and Brown people.*¹ We issue this statement to affirm our stance against anti-black racism in any and all forms and strive to investigate the impacts of racism within our communities.

As we are committed to this work, we stand united with the families of Manuel Ellis and Said Joaquin and the countless others who have been silenced and brutalized throughout our city, state, and country.

The fight for racial justice is a moral and imperative struggle that belongs to all. The Human Rights Commission will continue to study and investigate problems of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination in order to work towards an anti-racist City of Tacoma.

In solidarity,

s/ *Tacoma Human Rights Commission*

by:

Melvin Nobles, Jr., 1st Vice Chair
Sarah Nunez, 2nd Vice Chair
Taniesha Lyons, Commissioner
Julie Tran, Commissioner
Ronita Boullt, Commissioner
Sarah Rumbaugh, Commissioner
Al Ratcliffe, Commissioner
Lisa Snyder, Commissioner
Natalie Collins, Community Member
Michealea Lemons, Community Member

¹ Seattle Human Rights Commission Police Accountability Now Statement:
<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SeattleHumanRightsCommission/Documents/SHRC%20Letter%20-%20Police%20Accountability%20Now.pdf>