



Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Hosted online on Zoom.

Call to Order

- Meeting start time: 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

- Present:
 - Commissioners Quander, Smith, Gonser, Lewis, Catsambas, Tibbs, Munger, Kristina, Garcia, Leydon, Bailey
 - Nominees: Monson, Hultgren
- City of Seattle OCR Staff Present:
 - Marta Idowu, Civil Rights Advisory Commission Liaison
- Absent: Commissioners Koss, Lassiter
- Late arrival Commissioner: Duston

Land Acknowledgement

“We are currently occupying the unceded lands of many First Peoples, Coast Salish people, Muckleshoot, Suquamish, Stillaguamish, and Duwamish. We acknowledge and thank local First Nations for their centuries of land stewardship that long predates the arrival of European settlers. We remind you to be aware of the spaces you occupy locally, that these lands were stolen from First People in the name of white settler colonialism and that you seek ways to continue your education and give back to local Indigenous communities.” (Duwamish Tribe’s website)

“We must acknowledge that much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking of their people, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and their sacrifice, and we must acknowledge the tremors of that violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact that can still be felt and witnessed today.” (Dr. Terah “TJ” Stewart)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- I. Commissioner Lewis Motioned to Approve the minutes from September 4th meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gonser
- II. September 4th meeting minutes Approved Unanimously

Public Comment

- I. Dr Howard Gale - Two resolutions being passed, one to Senator Cantwell about Genocide in Gaza. Adopted by State Dems as well. Another requesting support for protection of immigrants' rights in Seattle. 156K people are foreign born living in Seattle, who face being arrested off the streets. The resolution asks for action to protect against 4th amendment rights being infringed. The Resolution asks Seattle police to support the rights of foreign-born people. It's a call to draft legislation that directs police to protect people's rights. Resolution shared in the chat along with contact information. www.tinyurl.com/ProtectSeattleImmigrants
 - A. Dr. Gale asks to reserve time to discuss this at the end of this meeting or at our next SHRC meeting.
 - B. Commissioner Bailey - In the past police were ordered to not uphold cannabis laws.
 1. This circumstance is about asking the police to enforce people's 4th amendment right as they were hired to do.

Items of Business

- II. UW Center for Human Rights - Commissioner Gonser introduces Dr. Angelina Godoy here to speak about a report recently published.
 - A. Forced disappearance and Human Rights Abuses. Definitions: emphasis on violations of immigrants' rights in WA State. Disappearances fall under international law. All cities are called upon to not be complicit.
 - B. Examples of people from WA taken to Guantanamo, the Salvadoran mega prison, and South Sudan. Who are the links in the chain that lead to these outcomes? Active private and public cooperation. ICE Air Flights out of airports at Boeing Field and SeaTac. Two entire families with children under 10 who were detained in Blaine and Ferndale, held in single cells for weeks at a time, far longer than the law allows.
 1. Researched WA's role in these detentions. Daily stealing of people from our communities without warrants for their arrests.

- C. Commissioner Leydon - background for HRC: email from Aug 28 discussed Boeing Field, Port of Seattle and specific actions to end cooperation with ICE and demanding access to observing ICE activities where they operate using resources partially or wholly managed by City/County and demand information transparency.
 - 1. How do we cut off the pathways of people winding up in detention, like Dr Hale's proposed issues of directing police to protect citizens.
 - 2. Commissioner Garcia asks if there are audits of the detention centers? Dr Godoy responds that the center self-audits and finds little. When outsiders ask to access and view conditions they are refused.
- D. Calling for two areas of action; keep people from being detained by systematic violations against civilians, and access to transparent records on who is being detained. For example, City of LA allows filing through FOIA requests for info on those detained. Cities can mandate certain information disclosure. We have information on people who are taken into public jails. It should be the same for migrants.
 - 1. Commissioner Lewis – Could we ask the county to pass an ordinance to make Boeing Field release this type of information? Dr Godoy responds, stating there's an existing ordinance for that; however, they don't act on it.
- E. Commissioner Gonzalez asks what a lawful arrest looks like? Dr Godoy responds that there is a warrant for a criminal offense. Criminal arrests are supposed to be made by the jurisdictional police. ICE is supposed to enforce violations against immigration laws which are civil infractions. This is one reason we ask for transparency on the reasons for the arrest.
- F. Commissioner Smith adds a point of clarification. There is a difference between a judicial warrant and an administrative warrant. When people are seized, warrants must be provided by a federal or state judge. Administrative warrants are provided by agencies like ICE. The ask for information transparency is to reiterate that ICE using administrative warrants as judicial warrants is not legal. Legal overreach is what can be a focus for us.

Committee Reports

Executive 6:55 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Quander - We have access to Gmail addresses for the commission now.
 - A. Please use the new form for suggesting agenda ideas for meetings.
 - B. Hector Garcia has been confirmed and appointed to the Commission. That means Avery Hultgren is now a Nominee, no longer a voting member of the Commission and no longer Chair. Nominee Hultgren will need to be reappointed through the appropriate City Council process.
- II. Appeals - Commissioner N. Leydon
 - A. Appeals hearing is scheduled for October 9th, but it's unlikely there will be a case. Commissioners Catsambas, Lewis and Gonser are assigned to the hearing should a case be confirmed.
- III. Treasurer - Commissioner J. Munger
 - A. Current treasury report, \$447.58 remaining in budget. Next month we need to pay our Zoom bill.

Events 7:10 p.m.

- I. Nominee Hultgren -Two possible event venues being researched. Next Events meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Criminal Legal System Reform Task Force 7:15 p.m.

- I. Commissioner B. Quander - Heard back from K. Tran of Councilmember Rinck's office, continuing to discuss ordinance draft language.
 - A. Event flyer information available for review, timing for event and venue TBD.
 - B. Send flyer to Trevor in Comms.

Housing & Unhoused Task Force 7:20 p.m.

- I. Commissioner A. Bailey - Lots of outreach with other orgs doing similar work. WA Recovery Alliance, increased access to those exiting recovery. KC Coalition on Homelessness. Attended a neighborhood event with Commissioners and How's our Neighbors.
 - A. Screening Evicting the American Dream at Kikao 415 Westlake Ave on 11/7 at 7pm. Everyone on the Commission is invited. An invite will go out.
 1. Commissioner Tibbs has offered to donate some items.
 2. The event is accessible and has captioning for the screening.
 - B. Working on a follow-on screening at a second venue. The film director and producer could come out and engage a second time at no cost to the

commission. Maybe the First Methodist Church would be able to host, thereby providing additional people to attend?

- C. Discussing 2026 strategic plan objectives for coordination with community councils and other activities.

Human Trafficking Task Force 7:25 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Gonzer - left the meeting.
 - A. Commissioner Leydon - The standing Task Force meeting series has ended.
 - B. Commissioner Catsambas to follow up with Commissioner Gonzer

Communications 7:30 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Duston - Began putting out an Instagram story to advertise Commission event and stopped. There's a want to be sensitive to the perspective of those who are affected by ICE activities, so that folks won't be fearful of attending events and being taken.
 - A. If SHRC makes posts about our events in public spaces ICE does scan for these types of events. Providing location information on flyers in 3D and advertising the events online can be part of addressing this issue.
- II. We were asked by Kiro 7 to give the Commission's thoughts about the end of the Consent Decree. Likely no need to respond this belatedly.
- III. We were asked by Katie Wilson's staff members to speak with her regarding her campaign re: what our priorities are on various issues.
 - A. Commissioner McCullough asks to set the process for including Comms in future responses.

Seattle Office for Civil Rights Updates 7:50 p.m.

Marta Idowu

- I. Thanks for filling out the Poll on the Roundtable Event.
- II. There's a December multi commission award event.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events 7:55 p.m.

- I. Stoup Brewing is having a Mayoral Watch party. All are invited.

Next Regular Meeting

November 6, 2025

Seattle Human Rights Commission
Regular Meeting
October 2, 2025

Commissioner Bailey moved and Commissioner Hultgren Seconded to Adjourn.

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.