



**TO:** Hyun Kim, City Manager  
**FROM:** Nicole Emery, City Clerk  
**COPY:** Community Vitality and Safety Committee Members; Toni Esparza, Executive Liaison  
**PRESENTER:** Nicole Emery, City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration and recommendation of applicants to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs  
**DATE:** April 23, 2026

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
 Committees, Boards and Commissions Interviews

**SUMMARY:**  
 The Community Vitality and Safety Committee will interview and may recommend up to nine applicants to the full City Council for appointment or reappointment to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Recruitment efforts for the open seats include notifying over fifteen organizations. Below is a list of the applicants:

APPLICANTS	COUNCIL DISTRICT
Crystal Garner	2
Ieesha Irving	4
Ryan McIntosh	5
Ikroop Nayyar	Outside City Limits
Olga Piddubna	3
Faith Syengo	Outside City Limits
Shanee Tracey	Outside City Limits
Maricres Castro (seeking reappointment)	5
Iuliia Didkivska (seeking reappointment)	1
Isabel Hernandez (seeking reassignment)	3
Emmanuella Shasha (seeking reappointment)	4
Lydia Zepeda (seeking reappointment)	3

**BACKGROUND:**  
 On December 12, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 39892 establishing the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (Commission), to be composed of eleven members and an alternate serving three-year terms; to start, all appointments shall be staggered rotations and terms. The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs shall have the duty and power to study problems and issues specifically impacting the immigrant and refugee communities in the City of Tacoma and will collaborate with community partners, City departments, and within the City’s Equity and Empowerment framework to identify and advance positive outcomes related to Tacoma’s economic, cultural, and civic life. Resolution No. 40858 expanded membership by two members, from 11 to 13, in order to better distribute the work of the Commission.



**ISSUE:**

Positions need to be filled on the Commission.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Commission will continue to operate without full membership.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests the Community Vitality and Safety Committee recommend the appointment or reappointment of up to nine applicants to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, which will be forwarded to the full City Council on May 19, 2026.