

# Minutes

## Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, November 14, 2025

12:30 PM PST – 1:45 PM PST

**In-Person Meeting Location:** Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370; [Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

**Remote Meeting Location:** WebEx

### Members Present

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, Tia Yazzie, Derrick Belgarde, and Jaci McCormack

### Members Excused

Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Suzanne Sailto, and Esther Lucero

### Meeting Guests

Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

### Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (November) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Agenda approved.</li></ul> Approval of the Minutes (September and October (unofficial)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>September and unofficial October Indigenous Advisory Council meeting minutes approved.</li></ul>	5 min
3	Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IAC Meeting Platform – Webex<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members discussed their experience using the Webex meeting application for regular IAC meetings.</li><li>Members decided to switch to Microsoft Teams for the IAC’s December meeting to reduce technical barriers to joining the meeting.</li><li>Once a new IAC Liaison staff starts, they will create a new virtual meeting series for 2026.</li><li>IAC members indicated that it is okay to continue using the staff liaison shared inbox to send emails.</li></ul></li><li>2026-2027 Mayor’s Proposed Budget<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members discussed the Mayoral transition and next steps.</li><li>OIR provided an overview of the Seattle City Budget process and a summary of the proposed 2026 budget with amendments, including context underpinning the budget:</li></ul></li></ul>	45 Min

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- Balanced: State law requires that Mayor to propose, and the Council to adopt, a balanced annual budget
  - Biennial: Mayor proposes two one-years budgets in a biennial process (current cycle is 2025 & 2026); Council adopted a 2025 budget and endorsed a 2026 budget in Fall 2024
  - Revenue Forecasts: August 2025 forecast informed the Mayor's Proposed Budget; October 2025 forecast informs City Council amendments
  - Operating and Capital Budgets: Budget includes an Operating Budget and a 6-year Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget
  - Economic Uncertainty Abounds: August revenue forecasts were down, labor market cooling, federal government shutdown, federal administration actions
  - Funding Adds Contribute to Future Deficit: \$~140 million General Fund deficit projected for 2027
  - New Funding Sources Help Alleviate Pressure on General Fund: Includes levy renewals (Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise) and new revenue proposals (Business and Occupation Tax)
  - Latest Revenue Forecasts Offers Cautious Optimism: City Council adopted Baseline Scenario from the October 2025 Revenue Forecast; Includes ~\$14 million in additional General Fund revenue
  - Members discussed their thoughts and questions about the proposed budget, including discussion of how the greater economic impacts in the region from the federal government shutdown have resulted in reduced economic activity and increase demand in social and health services.
  - 2026 Annual Work Plan draft review
    - Members reviewed the draft 2026 IAC Work Plan and discussed next steps including target deadlines of November 14, 2025 - Review and feedback, December 12, 2025 or January 9, 2026 – Possible action, and January and February 2026 - Electronic submittal to Mayor's Office and Seattle City Council along with meetings in early 2026.
    - A member mentioned a current time limited program that offers cash assistance and community supports to pregnant households to improve birth equity and child development outcomes. Members discussed how these upcoming program
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outcomes could be used to support similar investments and policies in local government.

- Additional Old Business Items
  - City of Seattle staff are continuing to work on trainings that will help staff learn more about collaborating with Indigenous communities and Tribal governments.
  - City Council Committees will change in early 2026. The IAC may be called before committee in the coming months to present.
  - Staff provide a brief recap of investments in community-led initiatives for Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
  - The group discussed next steps after the Tribal Nations Summit.
    - OIR anticipates an early 2026 release of a summary report.
    - Members asked about follow-up related to a few specific items that were discussed including community safety. A member emphasized the importance of police staff learning about the context and history of relationships with Tribal governments and Tribal police.
    - Members also discussed economic development. Members are curious about what the City’s role in relation to AI and data centers is. They mentioned examples of workforce development programs and positions being cut due to funding.
    - Members discussed recent reforms at the Washington State Centennial Accord that are reflective of some of the City’s efforts to drive meaningful dialogue and engagement through a government-to-government gathering.
  - A member brought up a new mid-cycle invoicing policy that requires a 30-day mandatory hold after invoices are submitted before they can be paid out. This is affecting many organizations who are contracted with the City’s Human Services Department. Members and staff discussed additional information gathering to better understand current policies.

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4	Member Announcements	5 min
5	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were no public comments.</li></ul>	

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#### Closing & Next Steps

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- December IAC meeting agenda items may include:
    - FIFA World Cup Local Organizing Committee guests
    - Department of Education and Early Learning - Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise 2025 Levy Implementation Planning
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