



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, December 13, 2024
12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location

Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
Room 370

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

Remote Meeting Location

WebEx



Members Present

Councilmember Jay Mills, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, & Asia Tail

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Derrick Belarde, & Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests

None

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (December) Approval of the Minutes (November)	5 min
3	Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Data Reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) briefed IAC members on their local to national work to address the crisis of MMIP, including their efforts to work with Seattle Police Department (SPD) to assess and address the quality of local law enforcement data.UIHI is the research arm of Seattle Indian Health Board and a national Tribal Epidemiology Center designated by the Indian Health Service to provide public health data, evaluation, and epidemiology services to urban American Indian and Alaska Native populations nationwide. UIHI recognizes data, evaluation, and research as Indigenous values that helps Native communities thrive. UIHI recognizes that colonial governments have a long history of harming Native communities intentionally and unintentionally through institutional and structural racism. Recognition of the critical role that Tribal Relations and the IAC play in local government. Expression of continuous support for more city investment in addressing the political and racial equity needs of Tribes and Native communities.Presenters provided an overview of some local MMIP data, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Our Bodies, Our Stories report (2018) that revealed high rates of sexual assault among American Indian and Alaska Native women in Seattle. This report revealed that of the 148 women surveyed, 94% had experienced rape or coercion in their lifetime. And only 8% of cases of a rape survivor's first attack ended in a conviction.MMIP Report (2018) that revealed the first national snapshot of MMIP cases in 71 cities, including Seattle. Of the 506 cases	45 min

in the report, 153 did not exist in law enforcement records.

Of the 71 cities analyzed, Seattle was the city with the most MMIP cases at 45 cases.

- The reports revealed a number of previously unknown findings about the MMIP crisis locally. For example, the MMIP Report revealed longitudinal data quality issues at SPD due to outdated demographic data collection practices that did not allow the department to distinguish between case data for American Indian and Alaska Native and Black people until the early 1980s. Presenters shared examples from SPD of racial misclassification of homicide victims, lack of law enforcement communication with families of homicide victims, lack of communication with Tribal governments. Presenters also shared the successful examples of culturally attuned services provided by detectives at SPD that sought guidance on the cultural considerations needed when working with Native victims, survivors, families, and Tribal governments.
- These reports directly informed federal legislative advocacy in support of Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act in 2018-2019. In 2018, an early draft of Savanna's Act did not include American Indian and Alaska Native people living outside of federally defined tribal lands. Through advocacy, the bill was amended before passage to ensure that all Native people would be protected by this federal legislation. Recognition that federal government accountability audits have revealed that federal agencies have not done enough to implement Savanna's Act and Not Invisible Act, yet efforts continue to ensure these federal policies are fully implemented.
- Presenters discussed the implications of racial misclassification, antiquated demographic data standards, and a lack of tribal affiliation data that can hinder interjurisdictional coordination and timely notification in missing persons and homicide cases. Collectively, these practices degrade the quality of local law enforcement data and hinder the fulfillment of trust and treaty obligations to Tribal citizens, regardless of where they live.
- Presenters reviewed the 2019 [MMIP Resolution 31900](#) which passed 9-0 by the Seattle City Council. This resolution lead by former Councilmember Debora Juarez outlined the City's commitment to address issues of MMIP, including gender-base violence prevention and response and improvements to local law enforcement data. Resolution 31900 was followed by [2020 budget actions](#) to create a 1.0 MMIP Data Advisor within SPD to coordinate best practices for

data reporting, collection and management related to MMIWG cases and funding to contract with a community-based organization to advise SPD on methodology and data collection, provide new approaches to end gender-based violence and build relationships with the community.

- Seattle Indian Health Board was the vendor selected for the City contract beginning in 2021 following pandemic delays. The [Governance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee received updates from SPD and UIHI in May 2022](#). Several small projects were completed in partnership between the Seattle Indian Health Board and SPD before Seattle Indian Health Board terminated the contract in 2024, citing lack of institutional support for MMIP data reforms, including disagreement on the legality of collecting Tribal affiliation data and a lack of support for engaging in Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the appropriate collection, analysis, and maintenance of Tribal affiliation data by local law enforcement.
- Presenters discussed a [2022 memo](#) that revealed a backlog of sexual assault cases in Seattle due to reprioritization of detective assignment by SPD leadership. Discussion of the disproportionate impact of sexual assault among Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities and the challenges among healthcare providers providing sexual assault response services in a system that has failed to adequately resource criminal legal responses to these cases. Discussion of the subsequent [Executive Order 2022-05 and taskforce](#) that sought to address the backlog. Discussion of the implications of these actions on the ability to inform SPD work through a culturally attuned and community response lens.
- Presenters shared the recommendations made to SPD to improve demographic data and to provide training and resources to better support staff working directly with Native people impacted by violence. Discussion of the challenges in moving these recommendations forward, including desired clarifications and legal analysis around local and state statutes on privacy standards and law enforcement data collection parameters.
- Presenters shared several resources created to address MMIP data challenges throughout the criminal legal system, including:
 - [A Step Toward Justice: King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Case Study](#)
 - [A Step Toward Justice: Community Informed Law Enforcement MMIP Websites](#)

- [Improving Law Enforcement Data for MMIP](#)
- Recommendations to the IAC included:
 - Hold SPD accountable to Tribal engagement and Tribal consultation on issues that may impact Tribal governments and Tribal citizens. When appropriate, request SPD confer with urban Indian organizations to improve understanding of urban Indian service networks that support American Indian and Alaska Native people living in urban areas.
 - Request a legal review of the city and state statutes that SPD claims prohibit the collection of Tribal affiliation data.
 - Request Tribal Consultation prior to any collection of Tribal affiliation data to ensure the appropriate collection, maintenance, sharing, and analysis of and Tribal affiliation data. Request Urban Confer with urban Indian organizations to better understand the implications of Tribal affiliation data among urban Indian service providers.
 - Request staff training for SPD to increase awareness of cultural considerations when working MMIP cases.
 - Request an action plan with timelines from the City to better understand how Resolution 31900 is being fulfilled.
 - Request a review of SPD's MMIP resources to ensure the legislative intent of MMIP funding is supporting MMIP work.
 - Request the development of a MMIP webpage in alignment with recommended features, content, and development process outlined in UIHI's Community Informed Law Enforcement MMIP Websites report.
- Members expressed gratitude for the recommendations and commitment to addressing violence impacting Native people. Members discussed the role of the IAC as an inter-tribal organizing space that advises local government. Members identified opportunities to discuss and organize amongst their networks and communities to ensure these issues are raised by Tribes and urban Native communities in unison. Members discussed federal and state efforts to address MMIP and how they interact with local efforts.

4

2025-2026 City Budget

30 min

- Staff reviewed summary of the adopted 2025 budget.
- Staff reviewed changes to several key highlights from the 2025 budget discussions included Statements of Legislative Intent to assess city funded youth programs and services, increases to the Equitable Development Initiative, temporary extensions to the Learning and Development Unit that supports the Tribal Nations Training Program, and changes to the Payroll Expense Tax (PET) fund.
- Discussion on the timelines and strategies to prepare for 2026 budget advocacy.



4	NAHASDA and Indian Preference Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff reviewed updates on outreaching panelists for a Jan/Feb 2025 webinar on urban Indian housing models. Members shared feedback on the topics and planning efforts including outreach to Tribal governments, Tribally designated housing entities, overview of tribal service areas, and examples of innovative Tribal and urban Native partners that apply Indian Preference in urban affordable housing developments. Staff reviewed co-host partners including OPCD's Indigenous Planning program and Rising Tides Indigenous Planning Group.	20 min
5	Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Governance Group including assistance with agenda setting and orientation of new members. Suzanne and CM Mills will serve on Governance Group from January – June 2024 and open call for members to serve July – December 2025.Members finalized IAC Procedures that outline the process for agenda setting, items for possible action, and written communications. These procedures further clarify and define group procedures.	30 min
6	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">No member announcements	Up to 5 min
7	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">There were no requests for public comment.	Up to 10 min
8	Closing & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly invoicing for Oct-Dec due Jan 10, 2025.	