



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, January 10, 2025

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, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Megan Castillo, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde & Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson & Asia Tail

Meeting Guests

Erika Malone and Amanda Sahali of the Office of Housing, Tracy Brown of Healthy Smart Homes, and Luis Gomez-Ventura and Vicki Pinkham of Seattle Police Department

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (January) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes. Approval of the Minutes (November and December) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved without changes.	5 min

Homeownership Assistance Programs

- The Office of Housing and Healthy Smart Homes provided two briefings on local and state homeownership programs. These local and state programs aim to support homeownership among low-income and historically underserved populations, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian homebuyers.
- Staff from the Office of Housing provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Housing. The Office of Housing creates affordable housing by equitably investing to prevent displacement and increase opportunities for people to live in Seattle. The Office of Housing works in three core areas: Affordable Housing Development, Programs for Homeowners, and Policy and Equitable Development. In the area of affordable housing development, the office invests in rental housing, homeownership, and incentive programs that encourage affordable development. In the area of programs for homeowners, the office invests in home repair, weatherization, oil to electric conversion, and sewer improvements. In the area of policy and equitable development, the office focuses on land use tools to support affordable housing and administers the community preference policy to prioritize certain applicants when leasing or selling units in areas of high risk for displacement.
- The Office of Housing does not build housing, but invests in affordable housing by several means. Affordable rental housing includes over 1,400 units of rental housing for low-income and formerly homelessness households through rapid acquisition and compliance monitoring of the Rental Housing Program. Affordable rental housing is also invested in through incentive programs with private developers including the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program, Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) program and incentive zoning. These tax exemptions or developer contributions that encourage multifamily housing in exchange for income- and rent-restricted units in mixed-income residential development in the urban centers. Finally, in the area of affordable homeownership, the office invests in permanently affordable homeownership opportunities such as resources for land trusts, and first-time homebuyer programs such as the downpayment assistance program.
- Staff discussed how affordable housing is a public benefit. Affordable housing helps address the injustice of racial discrimination. Affordable housing preserves neighborhood diversity and prevents displacement. Affordable housing increases opportunities to create



wealth preserves affordability for future homebuyers. And affordable housing helps homeowners become and remain successful.

- In the area of homeownership and sustainability, the Office of Housing invests in or administers four key programs: 1) Weatherization and Home repair improvements for homeowners and renters, 2) foreclosure prevention through the stability loan program, 3) resale restricted home development which is on track to produce 526 new homes in the next 7 years, and 4) down payment assistance through deferred loans of \$76,000.
- The [weatherization program](#) provides free weatherization and energy efficiency improvements to a home. [Home repair and side sewer assistance program](#) provides grants and no interest loans for critical safety repairs to a household for properties within the City of Seattle, and the clean heat programs offer [oil-to-electric program](#) conversion for homeowners and renters with properties within the City of Seattle. The [downpayment assistance program](#) provides deferred loans of \$76,000 to Seattle homebuyers at or below 80% of area median income through partnerships with local nonprofits and lending institutions. This city program can be pair with the state's new covenant homeownership program.
- Staff from Healthy Smart Homes shared a program overview of the Washington State Covenant Homeownership Program. The program provides 20% (up to \$150,000) downpayment assistance and closing cost assistance for first-time homebuyers in the form of a loan, secondary to the primary mortgage loan. The loan has a 0% interest rate and zero monthly payments.
- Eligible homebuyer criteria:
 - Household income at or below 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) in the county you are interested in purchasing a home.
 - First-time homebuyer is a person who does not currently own a home or has not owned a home in three years or they've not in their primary residence for more than three years.
 - The homebuyer or a parent/grandparent/great-grandparent lived in Washington State before April 1968
 - The person who lived in Washington before April 1968 is Black, Hispanic, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Korean, or Asian Indian.

- Healthy Smart Homes discussed job openings for positions covering Yakima County and Western Washington to support outreach and engagement among potentially eligible homebuyers.
- Members asked questions about how these programs operate on Tribal lands. Healthy Smart Homes shared the the program can be used on Tribal lands and that in the event of a home foreclosure, the land stays in Tribal ownership.
- Members and presenters discussed how city and state programs can be layered for eligible borrowers.
- Members discussed the Section 184 home loan guarantee program and requested that Office of Housing learn more about this program and integrate it into educational materials for American Indian and Alaska Native homebuyers. Office of Housing has partnered with an urban Indian organization to host homebuyer fairs focused on Native households. IAC staff connected Office of Housing with Section 184 program staff to learn more.

3	Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP)	45 min
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from Seattle Police Department (SPD) presented on programs and services that impact gender-based violence among American Indian and Alaska Native people in Seattle. • The first presentation including a briefing on the Community Service Officer (CSO) program of SPD. This program is comprised of civilian outreach specialists that liaise between communities and SPD. CSOs provide referrals to social and health services across the city and build relationships with community members through programs like the Demographic Advisory Councils. • Staff shared about the history and current scope of work for the CSO program, including recently expanded hours of operation. SPD staff 	

from the CSO program have recently convened urban Indian organizations and other community partners to host a MMIP focused Native community advisory group called the Indigenous Advisory Council. The group has met several times to vision the role and scope of the group and will be sharing information about 2025 gatherings soon. All interested community members are encouraged to share and join in the group.

- Staff shared that there are opportunities for interested organizations and groups to partner with the CSOs and other SPD staff to host community focused events such as sporting events and/or to have SPD officers and staff attend community events.
- A second presentation included a briefing on the city's MMIP data program. The briefing included an overview of the community organizing efforts and legislative action that resulted in [Resolution 31900](#) outlining the City's commitment to address issues of MMIP through research, data improvements, and direct services.
- Staff shared that the mission of the city's MMIP data program is to raise awareness and address the national data crisis as it pertains to MMIP. The vision is to understand the scope of the data problem and bring light to the stories of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women, while creating a model for collaboration between agencies and community organizations.
- The has an MMIP Data Advisor role within SPD. This position is tasked with leading the assessment, analysis, improvement, and monitoring of data and reporting systems and is focused on gender-based violence against American Indian and Alaska Native people. The key responsibilities of this role are to: 1) oversee internal data quality and management efforts, 2) influence policy and systems changes, and 3) establish quality performance standards and strategies. The position also works on collaborations including coordination with tribes, urban Indian organizations, law enforcement tribal liaisons, and Native community advisory groups. Collaborations are meant to ensure that agency efforts are community-informed and culturally attuned.
- In the area of partnerships and collaboration, staff noted:
 - Interdepartmental communications between Seattle Police Department, Department of Neighborhoods, and Office of Intergovernmental Relations.
 - Participation in the Washington State MMIP Task Force's subcommittees on Community Services and Resources, Data

- and Research, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and Families.
- Communication with the MMIWP Cold Case Unit at the Washington State Office of the Attorney General/
- Staff outline four core activities that SPD will pursue in 2025 including:
 - A cold case analysis of SPD’s unsolved missing persons cases to ensure the complete and proper documentation of all cases.
 - Creation of a public facing website to provide essential information, facts, and resources for families and friends of missing individuals.
 - Development of cultural competency training models that encompass cultural humility, cultural bias, and trauma informed care while simultaneously ensuring the effective utilization and implementation of best practices.
 - Fostering collaborative relationships between local tribal nations, urban Indian organizations, and pivotal stakeholders to enhance awareness and gain a comprehensive understanding o the pertinent issues surrounding MMIWP.
- The next steps for the MMIP Data Program in 2025 included a continued cold case analysis, cultural competency training, a missing person video resource, a public facing website, and collaborations with partners/key actors. The long-term goal is a racial misclassification analysis project.
- Members expressed support and gratitude for the CSO program and other models of community policing that aim to build healthy and supportive relationships between law enforcement and community members.
- Members asked if the SPD Chief of Police has ever met with any Chiefs of Police from tribal law enforcement agencies. While the exact answer is unknown, the City of Seattle | Tribal Nations Summit was named as a place where SPD leadership engaged with Tribal leadership.
- Members requested that SPD provide a more detailed briefing on the MMIP Data Program outcomes to the IAC. Members identified that the program has been in place for several years and would like to better understand how SPD has explored and/or addressed the quality of its data.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members expressed that public websites, resource sharing, and staff training are important, but they do not address assessment and improvement of law enforcement as described in Resolution 31900.	
4	Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governance Group – CM Mills and Suzanne will serve on the Governance Group for Jan-June.Committee meetings – Staff reviewed meeting requests for IAC committees to meet in February 2025 to identify preliminary budget and policy priorities for 2025.Budget – Staff reviewed the 2024 spending of IAC program resources and Indigenous Peoples’ Day resources. Core expense categories include member stipends and travel reimbursements, IAC hosted events, and event sponsorships to community-led programming.	30 min
6	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members shared about a 1/25 Rise Above and Storm Academy basketball clinic for Native girls and non-binary youth in grades 6-12.Members shared about a recent Memorandum of Agreement between the Port of Seattle and the Suquamish Tribe that strengthens environmental protection and economic development efforts.Members discussed the departure of U.S. District Attorney Waldref in the Eastern District of Washington.	Up to 5 min
7	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Four members of the public provided public comment. Themes included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inquiries to SPD about what data the MMIP Data Program analyzes and how it is used.Requests for detailed project plans on how SPD is fulfilling the data components of Resolution 31900.Discussion of the prevalence of racial misclassification and its impacts on Native people. Encouragement to SPD to invest in working on the data issues with Native researchers. Request for SPD to review national and state resources such as the recommendations from the Not Invisible Act Commission and upcoming data recommendations from the Washington State MMIP Taskforce.Examples from the state taskforce of community partnership and collaboration to address the data challenges. Expressions of support for more collaborative efforts to address the	Up to 10 min



issues discussed. Reminders that Native people, organizations, and tribes must be a part of the work.

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Closing & Next Steps

- Quarterly invoicing for Oct-Dec due Jan 10, 2025.
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