



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dan Strauss, Chair
Maritza Rivera, Vice-Chair
Robert Kettle, Member
Sara Nelson, Member
Rob Saka, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8806; Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov

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SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal
Governments Committee
Agenda
December 3, 2025 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<https://seattle.gov/council/committees/finance-native-communities-and-tribal-governments>

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business. Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

D. Items of Business

1. [Appt 03355](#) **Appointment of Eddie Sherman as member, Indigenous Advisory Council, for a term to July 31, 2027.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Lydia Faitalia, Department of Neighborhoods

2. [Appt 03356](#) **Reappointment of N. Iris Friday as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to October 31, 2028.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Lydia Faitalia, Department of Neighborhoods

3. [Appt 03357](#) **Reappointment of Robert E. Howard as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to October 31, 2028.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Lydia Faitalia, Department of Neighborhoods

4. [Appt 03358](#) **Reappointment of Michael L. Reichert as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to November 30, 2028.**

Attachments: [Appointment Packet](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenter: Lydia Faitalia, Department of Neighborhoods

5. **Tribal Governments and Native Communities Update**

Supporting
Documents: [Presentation](#)

Briefing and Discussion

Presenter: Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03355, **Version:** 1

Appointment of Eddie Sherman as member, Indigenous Advisory Council, for a term to July 31, 2027.
The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Eddie Sherman</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Indigenous Advisory Council</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>		Term of Position: * 8/1/2025 to 7/31/2027 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: NA	Zip Code: 98110	Contact Phone No.:
Background: Eddie Sherman (Diné Umó'ho") is a nationally recognized leader in strategic planning, governance, policy advocacy, and Tribal engagement on federal land management and conservation. Eddie has dedicated his life and career to advancing sovereignty, racial justice, self-determination, and building independent political power with Indigenous peoples. Eddie brings two decades of experience facilitating governance transformations, leading coalition advocacy, and guiding organizations through complex strategic planning and federal policy engagement rooted in Indigenous values and relational accountability.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): November 18 th , 2025		Appointing Signatory: Bruce A. Harrell Mayor of Seattle

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

EDDIE SHERMAN

INDIGENOUS STRATEGIST, FACILITATOR & ADVOCATE

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Eddie Sherman (Diné | Umó'ho ᵿ) is a nationally recognized leader in strategic planning, governance, policy advocacy, and Tribal engagement on federal land management and conservation. Eddie has dedicated his life and career to advancing sovereignty, racial justice, self-determination, and building independent political power with Indigenous peoples. Eddie brings two decades of experience facilitating governance transformations, leading coalition advocacy, and guiding organizations through complex strategic planning and federal policy engagement rooted in Indigenous values and relational accountability.

EXPERIENCE

PRINCIPAL & FOUNDER

Against the Current Consulting / January 2013 to Present

Against the Current Consulting (ATCC), a Native-led public affairs consulting firm specializing in Indigenous governance, strategic planning, and policy advocacy. Founded upon Indigenous principles of respect, relationship, reciprocity, responsibility, redistribution, and restoration to advance racial justice, equity, and independent political power for Indigenous communities and communities of color.

- Leading strategic planning, governance transformation, and policy advocacy engagements for federally recognized Tribes, urban Native nonprofits, and national Indigenous coalitions to strengthen organizational capacity, sovereignty, and collective power.
- Facilitating complex multi-stakeholder initiatives, including board development, executive retreats, coalition building, federal consultation processes, and communications strategies tailored to each client's cultural context and political landscape.
- Select clients include MacArthur Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Pew Charitable Trusts, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Urban Indian Family Coalition, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Potlatch Fund, Seattle Indian Health Board, Northwest Native Chamber, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Chief Seattle Club, Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits.

OF COUNSEL (FORMER PARTNER)

Hilltop Public Solutions / January 2017 to Present

Managed a range of campaigns, issue advocacy efforts, and communication projects for clients and stakeholders. Led firm's efforts to help important and underrepresented constituencies organize and maximize their influence on politics and policy in the Pacific Northwest and nationally.

- Worked in collaboration with American Indian and Alaska Native Educators, Tribal Leaders, and educational advocates to pass Senate Bill 13 in the 2017 Oregon State Legislature. SB13 required the teaching of tribal history and sovereignty in all K-12 public schools in Oregon.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive communication strategy and plan in coordination with the Coalition of Communities of Color. Deliverables include comprehensive reports on the affordable housing crisis, county-wide community-based racial equity analysis, and ongoing advocacy campaigns.

SKILLS

Strategic Planning
Board Development &
Indigenous Governance
Coalition Building & Advocacy
Multi-Stakeholder Facilitation
Tribal Engagement
Strategic Communications
Organizational Development
Public Affairs
Resource Development

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS
International Political Economy
Colorado College / 1997 - 2002
Student Body President, 2001

LEADERSHIP

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND
FELLOWSHIP
2010 Fellow

AMERICANS FOR INDIAN
OPPORTUNITY
AIO Ambassador

EL POMAR FOUNDATION
Senior Fellow

EDDIE SHERMAN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFESSIONAL



COMMUNITY SERVICE

NW NATIVE CHAMBER
ACTION FUND (c)(4)
Founding Board President

CHIEF SEATTLE CLUB
Board Member

NATIVE VOTE WASHINGTON
Advisory Board Member

NAYA ACTION FUND (c)(4)
Founding Board Secretary

NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH &
FAMILY CENTER
Vice Chair, Board of Directors

NORTHWEST NATIVE
CHAMBER
President, Executive Board

AFFILIATED TRIBES OF
NORTHWEST INDIANS
Co-Chair, Climate Resilience
Committee

ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON
Former Board Member

PORTLAND HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Commissioner

DENVER INDIAN CENTER
Executive Board Member

DENVER MAYOR'S AMERICAN
INDIAN ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
Chair & Spokesperson

EXPERIENCE continued

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Oregon Native American Chamber / January 2013 to October 2014

Provided day-to-day management and oversight of ONAC and worked in collaboration with the board of directors on achieving our three-year strategic goals and activities. Led fundraising efforts in order to expand resources and services to the Native American business community in Oregon and SW Washington.

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

ONABEN: A Native American Business Network / March 2012 to December 2012

Worked collaboratively with ONABEN's management team to develop annual communication, programmatic, and resource development goals to meet the goals of the organization. Managed the Northwest Native Capital Development Peer Group initiative, a collaborative project with Craft3 and twenty-one Native community-based Native economic development organizations.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

National Indian Child Welfare Association / December 2007 to March 2012

Responsible for managing the planning, execution, and evaluation of all resource development related activities of NICWA. Led fundraising strategy in collaboration with leadership to achieve annual resource development goals; and meeting the long-term objectives of the strategic plan.

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Denver Indian Family Resource Center / August 2006 to December 2007

Met and exceeded restricted and unrestricted funding goals by developing and implementing fundraising and communication strategies designed to generate long-term sustainable funding streams from a diversified base of renewable sources of revenue.

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER & EVENT COORDINATOR

Colorado Indigenous Games Society / July 2005 to July 2006

Supervised multiple, special projects for the 2006 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), which ranged from grant development, cultivation of sponsors, and supervising all facets of the planning, development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of projects.

SENIOR FELLOW

El Pomar Fellowship / June 2002 to May 2004

Nationally selected to participate in a highly selective, two-year post-undergraduate leadership and management program that develops the next generation of leaders in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors.

Managed the following operating programs for the Foundation:

- Emerging Leadership Development Program
- Nonprofit Leadership Program
- Penrose Regional Nonprofit Institute

Indigenous Advisory Council

Nine Members: Pursuant to [Ordinance 126512](#), all members subject to City Council confirmation, one – and two-year terms for the initial round of appointments, two-year terms thereafter:

- 5 City Council-appointed
- 4 Mayor-appointed

Roster: *Updated 11/18/25

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	M		1	Tribal member-WA	Donny Stevenson	8/1/25	7/31/27	3	City Council
4	M		2	Tribal member-WA	Jay Mills	8/1/24	7/31/26	2	City Council
4	M		3	Tribal member-Any	Jeremy Takala	8/1/24	7/31/26	2	Mayor
4	F	D4	4	Indigenous Youth	Tia Yazzie	8/1/25	7/31/27	1	Mayor
4	F		5	Indigenous Elder	Suzanne Sailto	8/1/24	7/31/26	2	City Council
4	F		6	Urban Native Org	Esther Lucero	8/1/25	7/31/27	3	City Council
4	M		7	Urban Native Org	Derrick Belgarde	8/1/24	7/31/26	2	City Council
4	M		8	Urban Native Org	Eddie Sherman	8/1/25	7/31/27	1	Mayor
4	F	D5	9	Urban Native Org	Jaci McCormack	8/1/24	7/31/26	2	Mayor

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(6)		(7)		(8)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ 2S / U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander			Middle Eastern
Mayor	2	2						4					
Council	3	2						5					
Total	5	4						9					

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

G List *gender*, **M= Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **NB**= Non-Binary **2S**= Two Spirit **U**= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.



Legislation Text


File #: Appt 03356, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of N. Iris Friday as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to October 31, 2028.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>N. Iris Friday</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Chair, Governing Council</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Term of Position: * <i>11/1/2025</i> to <i>10/31/2028.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
Residential Neighborhood: <i>SISC Serves Seattle & King County</i>	Zip Code: <i>98122</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: N. Iris Friday (Tlingit) is the Chair of the Seattle Indian Services Commission and a Native American Program Specialist at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She brings decades of experience advancing affordable housing and asset-building in Tribal communities across the country. A nationally recognized expert on Native housing and financial empowerment, Iris has also served in leadership roles with Native Action Network, the Center for Women and Democracy, and the Seattle Tlingit and Haida Community Council. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration in Tribal Governance from Evergreen State College.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  DATE: September 16 th , 2025		Appointing Signatory: <i>Bruce A. Harrell</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

N. Iris Friday



PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Action oriented work plans focused on innovation, collaboration, coalition building, and proactive results
- Manage programs and projects with local, regional, and national results
- Recognized both within and outside of government for leadership, community development, and volunteerism

PROFESSIONAL GOAL

To provide quality service to our clients that builds individual and Tribal capacity resulting in expanded housing opportunities and strong, Tribal economies.

WORK EXPERIENCE

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Native American Program Specialist

Office of Performance and Planning

Headquarters, WA DC - Out stationed to Seattle, WA

June 2019 – Present

40 hrs

The Office of Performance and Planning oversees all major policy matters impacting the Office of Native American programs, formulation of the President's annual budget, congressional matters, intergovernmental relations, Tribal consultation, and special projects.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In my role, I draft, review and edit proposed HUD policies, budget justifications, NOFO's; coordinate Tribal consultation sessions with other HUD departments; advise on issues related to Tribal engagement and provide recommendations on how to connect with other organizations and develop outreach plans.

Specifically, I have advised the Office of Housing Counseling, SNAPS, Department of Energy, Administration for Native Americans, Veterans Affairs, Office of Children and Family Services, and others on how to develop outreach plans to connect with Tribal groups. My role also includes coordinating multiple staff and departments on how best to connect with Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and other Tribal entities.

In my personal and professional life I am connected to and have worked with Tribes, TDHEs, and Native nonprofits across the country and am knowledgeable on who best to connect with to implement HUD and other Federal initiatives. As a result, I am tasked with drafting recommendations on how best to move forward and support other Federal agency initiatives.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

In my role, I am tasked with working with Federal agencies, national intermediaries, urban Native nonprofits, Tribes, and other HUD departments on how best to draft Tribal Engagement strategies. I have drafted engagement strategies that resulted in consultation sessions that included Secretary Fudge, Deputy Secretary Todman, Deputy Assistant Secretary Frechette and other agencies to connect with Tribal leaders.

I have served on numerous HUD and national task forces and ad hoc committees that have resulted in new partnerships, webinars, publications, and guidance for Tribes and TDHEs. Specifically, I served on the [Tribal Healthy Homes Initiative](#) that resulted in a series of handbook publications for Tribes and TDHEs. I have overseen ONAP's Asset Building Summits, national best practices, interagency coordination, and internal team building. For instance, I developed a sharepoint site that highlights ONAP employees as a tool for team building. IT support highlighted this sharepoint site as a HUD site that was extremely well designed.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Northwest Office of Native American Programs
Native American Program Specialist
Seattle, WA 98104

Jan 2004 – June 2019

The Northwest Office of Native American Programs (NWONAP) is entrusted with serving the 42 tribes of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In my role as a Native American Program Specialist I was responsible for ensuring that our department upholds the government-to-government relationship by proactively addressing the housing and community development needs of Tribal communities.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Developed an Outreach & Marketing plan for NWONAP's Title VI & Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program that resulted in a 500% increase in 184 Indian Home loan activity and millions of dollars in Title VI loan activity. As a result, the Section 184 loan program grew from 53 loans per year to approximately 300 loans per year resulting in nearly 60 million in mortgage lending. Annually, our Title VI loan activity ranges from 2 - 9 million dollars in loans for affordable housing development.
- Partnered with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide training for lenders on how to do trust land transactions. Outlined the Title Status Report process, mortgage approval and recordation process, and the functions of the Realty Office versus the Land Title and Records Office (LTRO). As a result I developed a regional directory of key contacts for Realty offices, LTRO staff, along with a synopsis of trust land transactions. A final outcome is that our Section 184 Lenders have quick access to Title Status Reports.
- Partnered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the San Francisco Federal Reserve, and Veterans Affairs staff to host a series of workshops on "Connecting the Dots to Homeownership on Tribal Lands" that resulted in five workshops held throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. I developed the agenda, provided marketing, and presented several workshop topics. Outcomes included: new partnerships with lenders, new tribes approved for the Veteran Affairs Native American Direct Loan, and renewed collaboration between the Federal agencies.

- Partnered with the San Francisco Federal Reserve to form the Oregon and Idaho Federal Working Groups on Indian Affairs. In addition to hosting regular meetings to discuss how best to serve Tribes, I took the lead in developing a one day training agenda on “Working Effectively with Tribal Governments” for state and federal employees. Both workshops were oversubscribed and at maximum capacity.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Wrote a white paper on Native Veterans and HUD-VASH that addressed the challenges Native Veterans have in accessing HUD-VASH vouchers on reservation. The paper was utilized as a conversation starter that highlighted the need to create a Native HUD-VASH program.
- Presented to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians on HUD-VASH and oversaw the consultation discussions related to Native HUD-VASH.
- Collaborated with the Native Veterans Affairs division to address HUD-VASH and the housing needs of Native Veterans. As a result, I presented at numerous VA conferences throughout our region.
- Organized regional and national HUD seminars and summits that required managing planning teams, budgets, and developing the agenda.

ASSET BUILDING

I am a nationally recognized expert on Asset Building in Native communities and am regularly invited to present at conferences and host workshops.

- I advocated for and received approval to organize three national Native Asset Building conferences for HUD’s Office of Native American Programs. In this role I managed the planning to develop a two-day agenda for 150 Tribal attendees. All conferences were a resounding success with evaluations that ranked the conference at a 96% success rate.
- Collaborated with our federal partners at USDA Rural Development, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve, First Nations Development Institute, Oweesta, Lakota Fund, and the Oklahoma Native Asset Building Coalition to present and assist with marketing the event.
- Co-Founded the Northwest Native Asset Building Coalition (NWNABC) that formed in November 2005 as a result of a meeting and training session that I organized. The NWNABC, is still in operation in 2023.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

HUD and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) to Public and Indian Housing Residents. I utilized the MOU to develop strong partnerships with the IRS to promote EITC in tribal communities by:

- Providing trainings to tribes on the EITC as an opportunity for families to pursue homeownership.
- Partnering with the IRS SPEC officers to provide trainings on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites. There are now three VITA sites in Washington that bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars in EITC tax refunds for their tribal members.
- Presenting to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians general assembly.
- Working with the Internal Revenue Service Stakeholder Partnership, Education and Communications staff to bring together Native non-profits, housing and community development organizations, to highlight the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and how non-profit organizations could take a leadership role in marketing the EITC, free tax preparation, and connecting families to asset building opportunities, such as home ownership, college, and small business development.

Non-profits in attendance recommended the creation of a more formal entity to address EITC and asset building throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. I organized a team of community stakeholders and created a work plan that made the NWNABC a reality and now exists as a non-profit organization. The NWNABC has trained numerous tribal housing counselors, financial coaches, and expanded asset building throughout tribal communities in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

TRAININGS

I am a certified financial education counselor, Pathways Home counselor, and Earned Income Tax Credit expert.

- Provided numerous trainings for northwest tribes on Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantees, Title VI loan guarantees, homebuyer education, financial education, earned income tax credits, asset building, and utilizing government guarantees for economic development.
- Regularly invited to present at state, regional, and national conferences. I have presented at numerous regional and national conferences including: Department of Justice, National American Indian Housing Council, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Center for Financial & Economic Development, National Community Tax Coalition, USDA Rural Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Buder Center, the San Francisco Federal Reserve, Department of Interior, USDA Rural Development, and Washington University.
- Responsible for facilitating numerous Government-to-Government Consultation sessions for HUD's Office of Native American Programs, including those on President Obama's Consultation Policy and the Native HUD-VASH program.

EDUCATION

Associate of Arts Degree - Seattle Central Community College, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science - University of Washington, Seattle, WA

John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program

Masters in Public Administration – Tribal Governance

HONORS & AWARDS

- Honoree, Seattle Indian Health Board, Adeline Garcia Award, 2022
- Honoree, Potlatch Fund, Antone Minthorn Economic & Community Development Award, 2015
- Recipient, HUD Secretary Donovan's Award for Excellence, 2014
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, (SFEB), 2014
- Honoree, "*Heritage Keepers*," Women of Color Empowered, 2012
- Honoree, Northwest Indian Housing Association, HUD Employee of the Year, 2012
- Recipient, *Flying Eagle Woman Award for Community Based Philanthropy*, Native Americans in Philanthropy, 2011
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, SFEB, 2011
- U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Star Peer Recognition, 2010
- Recipient, Excellence in Public Service Recognition, SFEB, 2007
- Recipient, Minority Executive Director's Coalition, Bernie Whitebear Unity Award, 2003
- Recipient, Tlingit & Haida Council Award for Outstanding Community Service, 2001

NATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership Kitsap, Class of 2013 – A one-year leadership initiative focused on leadership and professional development, community development, and a final community project. My project, entitled, “Kills Pill” resulted in a prescription drug take back program at the Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office.

2013 Delegate to the Center for Women and Democracy’s Global Networking trip to Rawanda. Presented on “Historical Trauma.”

2009 Delegate to Morocco, Center for Women and Democracy’s Global Networking Committee.

2008 Delegate, 3rd Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas, Panama

Certificate, John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program, Harvard University, September 1999

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Treasurer, Native Action Network. Provide leadership training to women and young women. Oversee an annual budget of \$1.3 million. Organize the training curriculum.
- 2009 –2015 Board member and past Chair, former Chair of the Leadership Institute, Center for Women and Democracy
- 2013-2015 – Delegate, Tlingit & Haida Washington Chapter

Seattle Indian Services Commission

5 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 103387 and Revised Charter adopted in 2012, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 1 Mayor- appointed
- 4 Other Appointing Authority: SISC Governing Council
(Note: Existing members represent previous appointing authorities (moving to Governing Council appointments at end of current term)).

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	F	N/A	1.	Chair	N. Iris Friday	11/1/25	10/31/28	8	Mayor
4	M	N/A	2.	Member	Robert E. Howard	11/1/25	10/31/28	2	Governing Council
			3.	Member					Governing Council
4	M	N/A	4.	Member	Michael L. Reichert	12/1/25	11/30/28	4	Governing Council
4	F	N/A	5.	Member/ Treasurer	Misha Rodarte	7/1/23	6/30/26	2	Governing Council

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Trans-gender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic / Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor		1						1					
Council	2	2						3					
Other													
Total	1	3						4					

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

**G List *gender*, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary, O= Other, U= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.



Legislation Text

File #: Appt 03357, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Robert E. Howard as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to October 31, 2028.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Robert E. Howard</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>SISC Governing Council</i>	Term of Position: * Term begin: <i>11/1/2025</i> to Term end: <i>10/31/2028</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position	
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Snoqualmie</i>	Zip Code: <i>98065</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Robert E. Howard (Apache), is a citizen of the San Carlos Apache Tribe and was born and raised in both Seattle, WA and on his Tribe's reservation in Arizona. He currently serves as the Tribal Liaison for Elevance Health – Wellpoint, WA, engaging with all 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State. Robert has over 20 years of leadership in Tribal governance, operations, and economic development. His career spans service as a Tribal Councilman, Vice Chairman, and Administrative Advisor for the San Carlos Apache Tribe, as well as executive roles in Tribal enterprise and managed care. With deep expertise in Tribal Sovereignty and a strong network among Tribal and public sector leaders, Robert is a dedicated advocate for Native self-determination and sustainable development. This reappointment represents Mr. Howard's second term.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  <i>Iris Friday (Sep 16, 2025 17:01:11 PDT)</i>		Appointing Signatory: <i>N. Iris Friday</i> <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission Chair</i>

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

Robert E. Howard, MBA, THRP



Introduction

Senior leader with over 20+ years of experience and expertise in Tribal government operations, Tribal enterprise business development/operations. Sharp interpersonal skills and an acute understanding of Tribal structures with a profound respect for Native Customs, Culture, Language and Traditions.

Experience

State of Washington Tribal Liaison

Wellpoint Washington, Inc. Seattle Washington, WA

January 2023 – Present

The Tribal Liaison for the 29 Tribes in Washington builds partnerships, establishes clear communication, and offers solutions through a culturally appropriate delivery system for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN). Tribal collaboration with IHCPs (Indian Health Care Providers), community-based organizations (CBOs), and the Washington Health Care Authority to support service delivery. Culturally appropriate care and coordination for plan members, respect for Tribal sovereignty, and collaboration on cultural humility.

General Manager Tribal Operations

Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe, Darrington, WA

March 2021 – October 2022

The General Manager shall carry out the operations of the Tribe in accordance with Tribal law. The direct primary responsibilities of the General Manager shall include exercising oversight, administrative and employment development functions pertaining to the management of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe Governmental operations and personnel. This position performs executive-level planning, organizing, directing

and evaluation of departments and programs as well as grant administration and oversight.

General Manager

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie, WA

October 2019 – February 2021

Oversee, and is responsible for, the administrative operations of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe in accordance with Tribal policy, law, and the goals and initiatives of the Snoqualmie Tribal Council. Responsible for the overall planning, forecasting, and evaluation of the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Administration programs and services. The General Manager is required to perform a variety of complex management and administrative functions.

Chief Executive Officer

San Carlos Apache Tribe - PDEE, Peridot, AZ

May 2012 – October 2019

Coordinate and strategize the development and profitability of seven Tribal Enterprises and six subsidiaries. The goal of keeping tribal money tribal while at the same time developing a local workforce to improve socio-economic standing of Tribal Members.

Systems Accountant

San Carlos Apache Tribe - Finance, San Carlos, AZ

December 2010 – May 2012

Assist in the Finance Department from Accounts Payable to Fixed Assets management. Primary responsibility in moving/managing accounting system processes across the Tribe from a papered environment to a remote paperless platform across 60 departments.

Administrative Advisor to the Chairman

San Carlos Apache Tribe - Admin, San Carlos, AZ

December 2006 – December 2010

Administrative support to the Chairman's Office in regard to Community outreach/projects, Department budgetary and goal compliance, and State and Federal communication on Tribal initiatives. Primary contact for Veterans, Elder and Youth driven components for Tribal Council action and or support.

Tribal Vice-Chairman

San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ

December 2002 – December 2006

Public Official elected to a 4-year term to help direct the Tribe, along with other members of the Council, in all aspects of Tribal financial operations.

Tribal Council Member

San Carlos Apache Tribe, San Carlos, AZ

December 2000 – December 2002

Legislative member of the Council responsible for District needs and part of the larger Council in financial, social and economic decision making for the Tribe.

Education

Master of Business of Administration

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

B.S. Accounting

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

B.S. American Indian Studies

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Certifications

THRP – Tribal Human Resources Professional

National Native American Human Resources Association

Seattle Indian Services Commission

5 Members: Pursuant to Ordinance 103387 and Revised Charter adopted in 2012, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 1 Mayor- appointed
- 4 Other Appointing Authority: SISC Governing Council
(Note: Existing members represent previous appointing authorities (moving to Governing Council appointments at end of current term)).

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
4	F	N/A	1.	Chair	N. Iris Friday	11/1/25	10/31/28	8	Mayor
4	M	N/A	2.	Member	Robert E. Howard	11/1/25	10/31/28	2	Governing Council
			3.	Member					Governing Council
4	M	N/A	4.	Member	Michael L. Reichert	12/1/25	11/30/28	4	Governing Council
4	F	N/A	5.	Member/ Treasurer	Misha Rodarte	7/1/23	6/30/26	2	Governing Council

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Trans- gender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic / Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor		1						1					
Council	2	2						3					
Other													
Total	1	3						4					

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

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RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.



Legislation Text

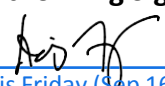
File #: Appt 03358, **Version:** 1

Reappointment of Michael L. Reichert as member, Seattle Indian Services Commission, for a term to November 30, 2028.

The Appointment Packet is provided as an attachment.



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Michael L. Reichert</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>SISC Governing Council</i>	Term of Position: * Term begin: <i>12/01/2025</i> to Term end: <i>11/30/2028</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Serving remaining term of a vacant position	
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Maple Valley</i>	Zip Code: <i>98038</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: <p>Mr. Michael L. Reichert was appointed in 1979 as President & CEO of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and Catholic Housing Services. In 2002, he became President and Trustee of the Catholic Charities Foundation of Western Washington. He also served for three years as a Commissioner to the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. Now President Emeritus of CCSWW, he was responsible for combined budgets exceeding \$170 million and managed more than 3,300 employees. He brings an extensive background in housing development, human services, employment/training programs, and financial management.</p> <p>Mr. Reichert's other activities include supporting the Billy Frank Leadership Institute, Board member/Treasurer at the WaHelut Indian School (Olympia), Senior Fellow with the Wildflowers Institute (San Francisco), Chairperson/Founding Father of the Low Income Housing Institute, Chief Financial Officer for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Development Consultant for the North central Montana Coalition. Michael is a graduate of Central Washington University and is an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, White Earth Indian Reservation.</p> <p>This reappointment represents Mr. Reichert's fourth term.</p>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  <i>Iris Friday (Sep 16, 2025 16:59:52 PDT)</i>		Appointing Signatory: <i>N. Iris Friday</i> <i>Seattle Indian Services Commission Chair</i>

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

Michael L. Reichert

Current Position

President, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington; President, Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington; President, Catholic Charities Foundation

Summary of Qualifications

Visionary experienced leader, locally and nationally. Outstanding communication skills. Extensive management experience in social services, housing and advocacy organizations. Extensive knowledge of government policies. Serves as leader and organizer of the Social Services and Housing arms of the Roman Catholic Church in Western Washington. Demonstrated ability at structuring and transforming complex service organizations into integrated service delivery networks. Combined budgets exceeding \$300 million and 4,100 staff. Enrolled member Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, White Earth Indian Reservation.

Professional Experience

1979 – Present

Catholic Community Services (CCS) and Catholic Housing Services (CHS), Seattle, WA

President and Chief Executive Officer

- Directs day to day activities of CCS and CHS, which combined are the largest non-profit social service organization in Washington State with an annual budget of more than \$300 million and a staff of more than 4,100.
- Formulates organizational goals and objectives. Establishes administrative and program systems.
- Approves operational policies and procedures in areas such as personnel, legal, finance, advocacy, public relations, and fund development. Oversees subordinate or affiliated organizations.
- Recruits, appoints and supervises management staff.
- Advocates for CCS/CHS clients, staff and programs. Represents CCS/CHS to the public, media and government.

1995 – 1999

Puyallup Tribe of Indians/Puyallup International, Inc. Tacoma, WA

Finance Committee Member and Advisor

1975 – 1979

Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma, WA

Director of Federal Programs

- Managed the Tribe's employment and training programs as well as all federally funded support activities.
- Served as Executive Staff to the Tribal Council.
- Represented the Tribe and National Congress of American Indians on employment, training and economic development issues before the US Congress.



1976-1977

Maple Valley Community Center, Maple Valley, WA

Executive Director

- Founded and helped fund the Greater Maple Valley Community Center in its first year of operation.
- Co-founded and elected to the Greater Maple Valley Community Council and served as its Vice-Chair for 2 years.

1974-1976

Small Tribe Organization

Health Study Director, Assistant CETA Director

- Served as Assistant Director for Employment and Training for 18 reservation and non-reservation Indian Tribes in Western Washington.
- Served as Director of Comprehensive Health Study of off-reservation Indians in Washington State. Reported results of the two-year study to the United States Congress.

**Leadership roles
and affiliations**

Chairperson, National Catholic Housing Commission 1988-1993

Chairperson, Low Income Housing Institute 1992-1993

Chairperson, National Indian & Native American Employment & Training Coalition 1976-1979

Chairperson, McCauley Institute, Washington D.C. 1985-1991

Chairperson and President, Archdiocesan Housing Authority 1991-1999

Board member and Treasurer, WA He Lut Indian School

Vice-President and Senior Fellow, Wildflowers Institute in San Francisco

Board Member and Treasurer, Puyallup International Incorporated

Board Member, Catholic Charities USA Washington D.C. 1986-1989

Board Member, Northwest Harvest 1986-1993

Board Member, Intercommunity Housing 1991-1993

Vice-Chairperson, Greater Maple Valley Council 1976-1978

Education

1970 – 1974

Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington

BA/Communication and Native American Studies – Cum Laude

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Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2805, **Version:** 1

Tribal Governments and Native Communities Update

2025 Tribal Nations Summit Overview

Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations
December 3, 2025





Working Together More Effectively

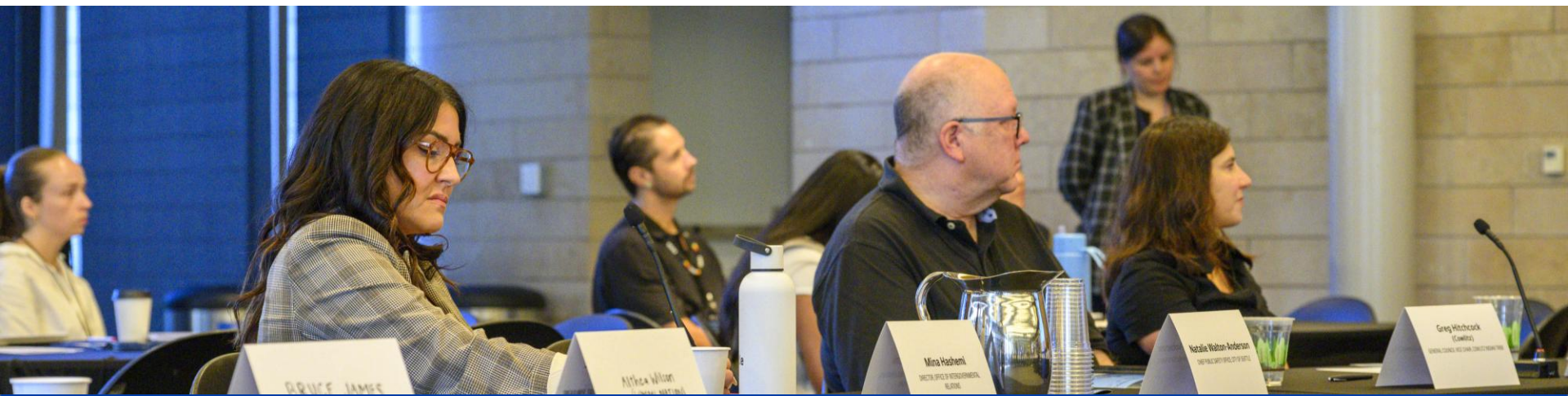


"True collaboration requires early meaningful consultation and recognition of Tribal sovereignty, not just a legal requirement, but as a pathway to durable, doable, and just solutions."

– **Josh Bagley**, Vice Chair, Suquamish Tribe

Summit Goals

- Identify actions and desired outcomes that uphold the sovereignty and treaty rights of federally recognized Tribes.
- Build partnerships, strengthen collaborations, and enhance diplomacy with Tribal governments and Native communities.
- Share updates on City efforts to strengthen Tribal and urban Native engagement in local government.



Tribal Representation

- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tulalip Tribes
- Washington State Chapter of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska



Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)

- Chief Seattle Club
- City of Seattle Indigenous Advisory Council
- Seattle Indian Health Board
- Seattle Indian Services Commission
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation



Government

Executive and Legislative

- Mayor's Office
- Seattle City Council

City Departments

- *Department of Education and Early Learning
- Department of Neighborhoods
- *Finance and Administrative Services
- Human Services Department
- Legislative Department
- Office of Arts and Culture
- *Office of Economic Development
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Housing
- Office of Intergovernmental Relations
- Office of Planning and Community Development
- *Office of Police Accountability
- Office of Sustainability and Environment
- Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects, and Sound Transit
- *Seattle Center

- Seattle City Light
- *Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- Seattle Fire Department
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Public Schools

- Native Education Program

King County

- King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Washington State

- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Attorney General's Office

**denotes City departments that attended their first Tribal Nations Summit*



Themes

Effective Intergovernmental Relations

- Institutionalize a government-to-government framework
- Engage in early and often engagement and consultation
- Model two-way dialogue

Education and Awareness

- Seek understanding of vast Tribal interests
- Learn about legal, political, and racial equity context
- Understand how Indigenous worldviews and cultures shape policy responses and models of care

Relationship and Trust Building

- Seek understanding of shared priorities and interests
- Foster or repair trust in local institutions
- Coordinate opportunities to connect across policy issues and spaces

Collaboration and Partnership

- Invest in Tribal and urban Native-led work and priorities
- Take actions to uphold treaty protected rights and tribal sovereignty
- Promote information sharing, collaboration, and partnership across jurisdictions
- Partner to address data challenges and data sovereignty

Commitment Areas

- Effective Tribal relations and Indigenous engagement
- Cultural vitality and visibility
- Collaborative cultural resources stewardship
- Culturally attuned systems of care





Questions