



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Select Committee on Federal Administration and Policy Changes

### Agenda

Thursday, March 6, 2025

2:00 PM

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

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Chair  
Cathy Moore, Vice-Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Member  
Robert Kettle, Member  
Sara Nelson, Member  
Maritza Rivera, Member  
Rob Saka, Member  
Mark Solomon, Member  
Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8808; [AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov](mailto:AlexisMercedes.Rinck@seattle.gov)

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Select Committee on Federal Administration and**  
**Policy Changes**  
**Agenda**  
**March 6, 2025 - 2:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:**

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

**Committee Website:**

<https://seattle.gov/council/committees/federal-administration-and-policy-changes>

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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.

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

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. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair.

Pursuant to Council Rule VI.C.10, members of the public providing public comment in Chambers will be broadcast via Seattle Channel.

Please submit written comments to all Councilmembers four hours prior to the meeting at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Chair's Report**

**D. Public Comment**

**E. Items of Business**

**1. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) and  
Reproductive Rights Issues**

*Supporting  
Documents:*

[Lavender Rights Project Presentation](#)  
[Pro-Choice Washington Presentation](#)

**Briefing and Discussion** (50 minutes)

**Presenters:** Jaelynn Scott, Lavender Rights Project; Courtney Normand, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates; Sami Alloy, Pro-Choice Washington; Taylor Farley, Queer Power Alliance

2. **Overview of Immigrant and Labor Rights Issues**

Supporting  
Documents:

[NWIRP Presentation](#)

[OneAmerica Presentation](#)

**Briefing and Discussion** (70 minutes)

**Presenters:** Hamdi Mohamed, Director, Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs (OIRA); Jenny Mashek, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP); Vanessa Reyes, Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN); Roxana Norouzi, OneAmerica; Gabriel Neuman, GSBA - Washington State's LGBTQ & Allied Chamber of Commerce; Steve Marchese, Director, Office of Labor Standards (OLS); Rigo Valdez, Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council (MLK Labor Council); Danielle Alvarado, Fair Work Center

**F. Adjournment**



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Inf 2642, **Version:** 1

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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) and Reproductive Rights Issues

# UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE SEEING

## CURRENT STATE OF OUR COMMUNITY:

- ✓ Executive Orders
- ✓ Increased Surveillance
- ✓ LGBT Youth Mental Health
- ✓ Black Community At-Risk
- ✓ Local Compliance in Advance





# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL'S POLICIES & NEEDED ACTION

## KEY POINTS:



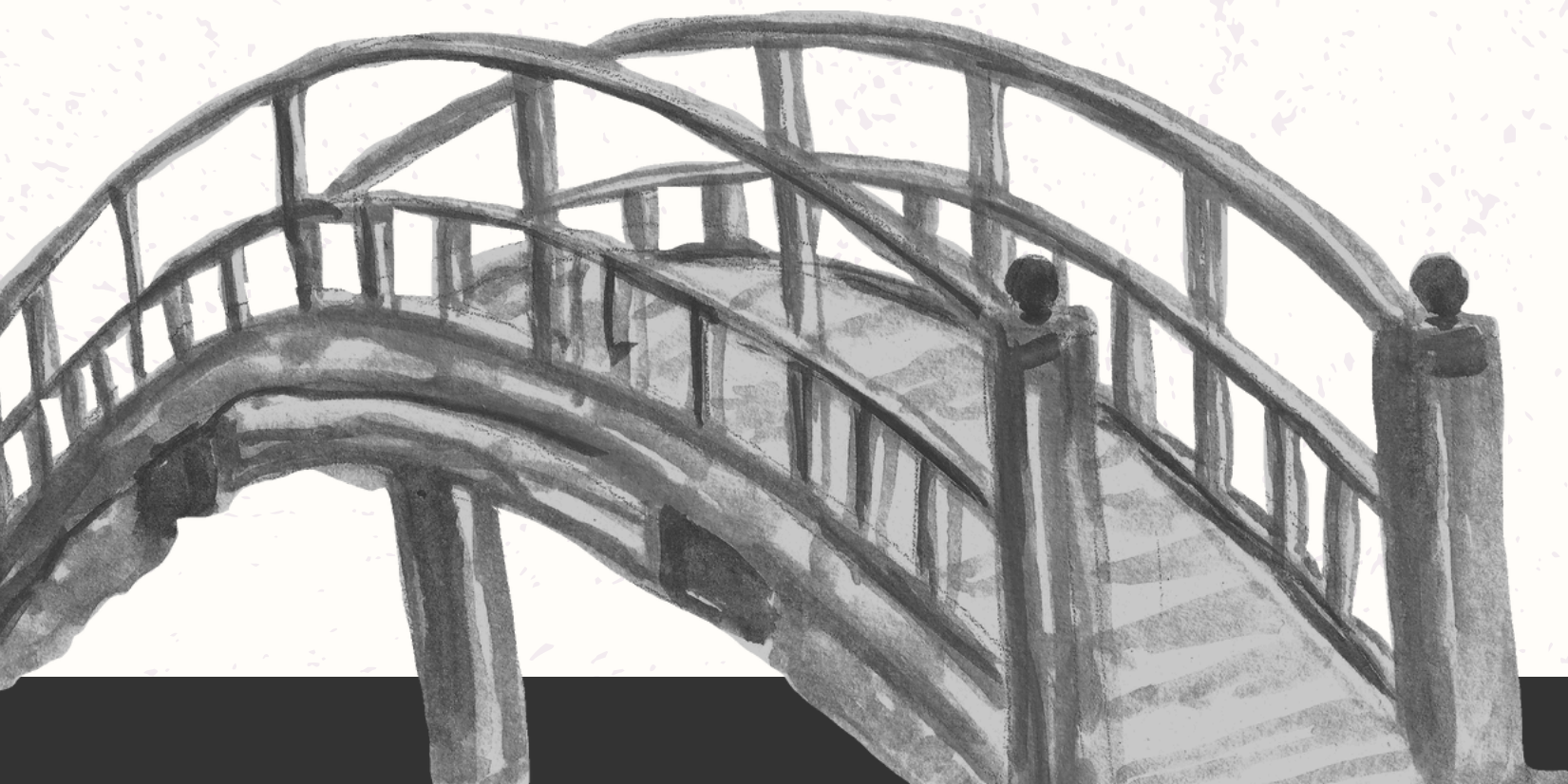
The City Council has unintentionally supported policies that harm trans and nonbinary communities by expanding punitive law-and-order measures. These policies, mirroring the Trump administration's regressive approach, criminalize homelessness, poverty, sex work, and drug use—deepening fear and discrimination



Instead of addressing rising violence against trans people, the focus has been on policing and displacement, with expansive SOAP/SODA zones and increased surveillance worsening the crisis.



To truly support trans and nonbinary communities, the council must repeal harmful policies and prioritize real safety over criminalization.





# THE REAL EFFECT'S OF FALSE "SAFETY"



**WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN DEATHS EVEN IN CAPITOL HILL:**



**Kenji Z. Spurgeon, a 23 year old Black Transwoman from Seattle; murdered on Pride weekend July 1st 2024 on the corner of 10th and Pine across from Cal Anderson Park.**



**Jonny Adamow an Dominican, nonbinary person visiting from NYC for New Year's. Murdered on Dec 31, 2024 on the corner of Pike and Broadway.**





# PRO-CHOICE WASHINGTON

**Sami Alloy**

**Interim Executive Director**



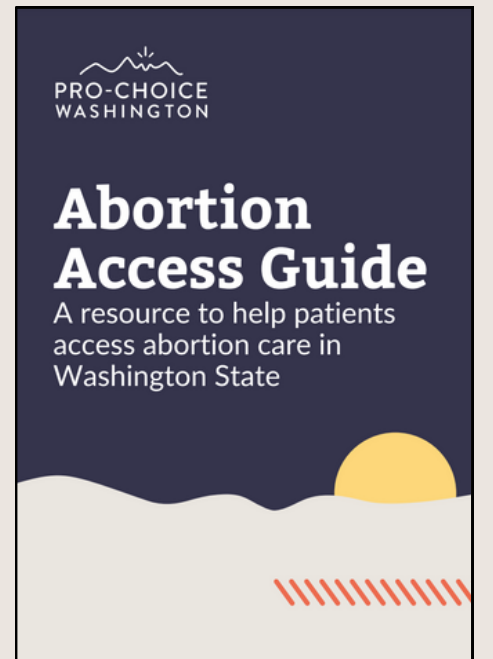
March 6, 2025

# Community Concerns

- ❗ Patients, providers, and parents are anxious about the rapidly changing landscape for access.
- ❗ Executive Orders, funding cuts, and mass firings are causing immediate harm and chaos.
- ❗ Immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, low-income residents, and youth already face increased barriers to care.
- ❗ Looming threat of a national ban on abortion.
- ❗ Providers are stretched thin. They need:
  - Increased funding for clinics.
  - Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates.
  - Expanded protections under Washington's Shield Law.

# What can the City of Seattle do?

- ❗ Backfill losses of federal funding for local clinics.
- ❗ Provide public health education and in-language resources on how to access abortion and gender affirming care and counter predatory disinformation.
- ❗ Establish a reproductive health equity fund to support communities with the highest barriers to care.
- ❗ Collaborate with the Attorney General on Washington's Shield Law.
- ❗ Audit the City's contracts to ensure public funding is not spent on institutions that have restrictive policies on abortion.
- ❗ Review City civil rights language to ensure updated and inclusive language on reproductive freedom.







Legislation Text

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**File #:** Inf 2643, **Version:** 1

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Overview of Immigrant and Labor Rights Issues

# IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Jenny Mashek, VAWA Directing Attorney  
March 2025

Northwest  
IMMIGRANT  
RIGHTS  
Project

# Areas of Concern

- Expanded Criminalization
  - Under the Laken Riley Act, certain immigrants *accused* of an expanded list of crimes, not *convicted*, including shoplifting, may be forced into mandatory detention with no bond.
- Expanded Deportation and Expedited Removal
  - The administration is looking to expand immigration detention capacity across the U.S. and beyond.
    - Capacity at the Northwest ICE Processing Center (formerly NWDC) in Tacoma is 1500; currently 1300+ persons detained.
  - Individuals who have been in the U.S. for less than two years may be subject to expedited removal, even if they're already in removal proceedings in immigration court, and even if they're not located near the border.
- Registration Requirement
  - In February, USCIS announced a new policy requiring all immigrants to register with the government, based on Section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Requires individuals 14 years or older who were not fingerprinted or registered when applying for a U.S. visa, to apply for registration and fingerprinting. This could include individuals without inspection, admission, or parole. USCIS is setting up a process online.
    - NWIRP's current position on this is we are waiting for the process to be implemented.
      - A reminder that all individuals have a right to remain silent and a right to not self-incriminate.
    - Individuals should seek advice and counsel from reputable immigration attorneys.
- Stripping Protections from Survivors
  - ICE formally rescinded the Victim-Centered Approach to dealing with immigrant survivors. We anticipate that survivors with pending forms of humanitarian relief, such as VAWA Self-Petitions, U visas, and T visas, will be subject to enforcement actions.
  - As of this week, DHS announced that they will re-implement the Notice to Appear policy that we saw in Trump 1.0, which means that any immigration petition that is denied, including VAWA Self-Petitions, U visas, and T visas, will cause the applicant to be referred to immigration court for removal proceedings. This will have a chilling effect on applications.



# How Can the City of Seattle Support Immigrants and NWIRP's Work?

- Providing continued legal defense funding directed toward removal / deportation defense.
- Providing continued funding directed toward representing immigrant survivors of DV/ SA/ Human Trafficking.
- Continue Involvement and Support with the DCYF Family Separation Rapid Response Team.



City of Seattle Select Committee on  
Federal Administration & Policy Changes

Roxana Norouzi, Executive Director



## What we're hearing

Our members are frightened and face real impact: threats of mass deportation, a federal registry and cuts to health, education and social service programs create instability and distrust of government.

AND immigrants are resilient: communities are standing strong together through networks built over the past eight years, practices mutual aid and advocacy for state and local leadership.




Our focus on building power for the long-haul does not change






## City Actions: Build and Maintain Trust

1. Be vocal about support for immigrants and refugees in every Council District and public venue.
  2. Continue Keep Washington Working Practices: Prohibits local enforcement of federal immigration laws. Train all staff and departments on this and what is private versus public space (KYR for city employees).
  3. Bolster City's language access programs to ensure messages and city services are reaching all communities.
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## City Actions: Funding & Policy

1. Maintain and expand City's investment in Legal Defense Network
2. Prepare for legal defense of the City's Sanctuary Policies and filing other lawsuits that infringe on Seattle's commitment to welcome immigrants
3. Invest in welcoming immigrant inclusion programs like citizenship, English and workforce development as well as immigrant protections such as know your rights trainings
4. Fund the needs of asylum seekers through coordination with county and other cities
5. Fund rapid response networks and deportation defense
6. Consider new local progressive revenue to meet urgent community needs



This is a moment for the City to follow its values, regardless of any change in federal policy or funding.





Questions?