

**ASHLAND SOCIAL EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
June 11, 2026**

5:00 p.m. - Lithia Room - 51 Winburn Way - and on Zoom
These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm on Zoom.

Present on Zoom were committee members Emily Simon, John Tyler, Allison Mendel, and Catherine Greenspan.

Also present were council liaison Gina DuQuenne (in-person), staff liaison Kerrick Gooden (in-person), and guest Brandon Polanco (on Zoom and pending formal appointment).

1. Land Acknowledgment - We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work- the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We denounce the egregious acts of the colonizers and government and recognize the horrific impacts that still exist today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we love and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha - "Where the Crow Lights" - that is now the Ashland City Plaza
2. Labor Acknowledgment - We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built. We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant labor, including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented peoples who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force. We acknowledge all unpaid care-giving labor. To the people who contributed this immeasurable work and their descendants, we acknowledge their indelible mark on the space in which we gather today. It is our collective responsibility to critically examine these histories, to repair harm, and to honor, protect, and sustain their contribution to our society.

II. Unfinished Business

1. Review, finalization, and decision regarding the issuance of a recommendation to Council to issue a proclamation opposing the development of local ICE facilities.

Simon provided background regarding the development of the draft proclamation which was shared on-screen.

The committee was in agreement to send it to the Mayor for consideration as-is, understanding she may decide to edit as per her discretion.

Simon moved for SERJAC to approve the draft proclamation as written, and to ask that next steps be taken for Mayor/Council consideration and approval. Tyler seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Simon, Greenspan, Tyler, and Mendel - Yes. Motion passed.

DuQuenne will forward the draft proclamation to the Mayor and will ask for it to be included in the next available City Council Business Meeting (Tuesday, July 21, 2026).

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5.22 p.m.