

DRAFT v.2 Proposed next steps

We support pausing the Immigration Advisory Board as written in the proposed ordinance. We propose the Administration initiate the following next steps:

- **Identify Board member expectations:** We will draft board and commission member expectations for Council consideration. This work is needed across all boards and commissions and will be the foundation for further community engagement work.
- **Identify IAB responsibilities:** Determine City staffing and responsibilities for the IAB.
- **Ordinance update:** Determine updates needed to the IAB ordinance, with selected IAB members, to be presented to Council for consideration.
- **Appointment process:** Determine application and appointment process, with selected IAB members.
- **Identify appropriate resources:** Use the updated ordinance and responsibilities to determine realistic resources needed for remainder of 2024 and for the next biennium.

Timeline

The Administration recommends the Council request an update on progress in six months. We recommend the ordinance to pause the IAB not contain a timeline or a specific date to resume. We have many related priorities to address, and this work should take the time it needs for a good outcome.

Related priorities

The City has made important advancements in recent years to implement Council direction to address racism as a public health crisis and to support our City as an equitable, just and inclusive place to work, live and play. These include:

- Work to support the **Whatcom Racial Equity Commission** remains a priority, with steps to seat members and recruit an executive director coming soon.
- Our **Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** program is underway and expanding, as described to Council on [September 11, 2023, in Committee of the Whole](#). (video of presentation [linked here](#), presentation begins at 32:35)
- Expanding **language access services**, including policy development and providing expanded interpretation and translation services.
- Increasing membership diversity and inclusive practices on all **advisory boards and commissions** and other steps to increase consistency, diversity and participation on advisory groups and other community engagement activities.

This work is anticipated to be unaffected by pausing the IAB and will continue as planned.