

RESOLUTION NO. 1137

CITY OF LACEY

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY RELATED TO THE LACEY CITY COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.

**WHEREAS**, on June 9, 2011, the Lacey City Council adopted the Lacey City Council Policies and Procedures Manual to standardize the process for implementing current and new Council practices, procedures, and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, Land Acknowledgements are formal statements that recognize and respect Indigenous communities; provide support for Indigenous communities; continue to build strong and authentic relationships with Indigenous communities; bring awareness of histories that led to past and current development of areas, including: histories of dispossession, displacement, colonialization, cultural erasure, broken treaties, etc.; recognize Indigenous history, culture, and positive impacts on the greater community; and are used as a step to inspire more action and better relationships with Indigenous communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lacey is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, specifically the people of the Medicine Creek Treaty (1854), including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and the Squaxin Island Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lacey works with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe in government-to-government partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2014, the Lacey City Council and the Nisqually Tribal Council participated in a ceremonial event to sign an historic agreement, The Nisqually Indian Tribe and City of Lacey Accord; and

**WHEREAS**, a Land Acknowledgement Policy meets goals identified in the Lacey Work Plan 2022 to 2024 and Communications Plan 2022 to 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Equity, an advisory board to the Lacey City Council, reviewed the Land Acknowledgement Policy on June 26, 2023 and recommended the policy's approval by the Lacey City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 3, 2023, the Community Relations Committee reviewed the Land Acknowledgement Policy and approved moving the policy to the full Lacey City Council for approval; and

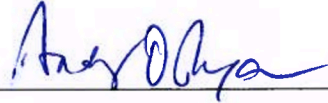
**WHEREAS**, the Lacey City Council reviewed the Land Acknowledgement Policy at their July 27, 2023 worksession; and

**WHEREAS**, staff proposed to incorporate the Land Acknowledgement Policy in a new section of the Lacey City Council Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 10.08, Land Acknowledgement Policy.


**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, that the Lacey City Council Policies and Procedures Manual shall be updated to include the addition of Section 10.08, Land Acknowledgement Policy, as set forth in **Exhibit A**.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LACEY, WASHINGTON, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2023.


LACEY CITY COUNCIL

By   
Mayor

Attest:

  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
City Attorney

## Exhibit A

### 10.08 Land Acknowledgement

The purpose of this policy is to establish a City of Lacey Land Acknowledgment and provide guidance for City of Lacey employees, volunteers, appointed officials, and elected officials on its use. This policy is subject to change.

#### Land Acknowledgements

Land Acknowledgements are rooted in many Indigenous people's practices and cultural protocols in order to recognize other Indigenous peoples whose land one is a guest on.

“It is important to note that this kind of acknowledgement is not a new practice developed by colonial institutions. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth...”

[Duwamish Tribe webpage](#)

A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes, pays tribute to, expresses gratitude and respect for, affirms the ongoing relationship between indigenous people and the land, and helps raise awareness of the Indigenous histories, perspectives, and experiences — past, present, and future. In addition, Land Acknowledgements:

- Express support for Indigenous communities.
- Raise awareness of histories that led to past and current development of area, including history of dispossession, displacement, colonialization, cultural erasure, broken treaties, etc.
- Recognize the positive impacts of indigenous history and culture on the greater community.
- Are a first step to inspire more action and better relationships indigenous people.
- Are not intended to be a performative act.
- Are ceremonial in nature and do not carry any legal authority.

The City's Land Acknowledgement was reviewed by members of the Nisqually Indian Tribe. In adopting a local land acknowledgement, the City is not taking a position on the status of federal recognition for any tribe. The City recognizes that land acknowledgements are powerful statements and that these statements are most meaningful when paired with authentic and sustained relationships with Indigenous communities.

### City of Lacey Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the ancestral land we are on today as the traditional territory of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed in 1854, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe.

We acknowledge, remember, and must not forget those Tribal People that are named but not recognized today, and who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here.

We acknowledge, Indigenous People who called the land home before the arrival of settlers and have been here Since Time Immemorial.

We recognize the relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories, which include the religious significance, self-determination, identity, and economic factors. The relationship helps all people heal from the past and learn how not to inflict new wounds today.

We recognize and respect Indigenous People as traditional stewards of this land, and acknowledge the Tribal Governments and their role today in taking care of these lands.

We recognize that this land acknowledgement, and the Nisqually-Lacey Accord of 2011, are small steps toward true allyship. We commit to partnering with the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek to continue to uplift the voices, experience, and histories of indigenous people of this land and beyond.

We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today.

We recommend that community members read the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#).

### City of Lacey Abbreviated Land Acknowledgement

We [or insert object, e.g., "This Marker is"] are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge, and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the

traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

### Land Acknowledgement Use

The above Land Acknowledgements may be used:

1. To open City meetings, events, or programming;
2. As part of City plans, reports and other adopted documents; and
3. On City signage, markers, maps, and other materials.

Guidelines for use of the Land Acknowledgment is provided below. Please contact the City Manager's Office if you are planning to use the Land Acknowledgement for uses #2 and #3.

#### 1. City Meetings, Events or Programming

For City Council meetings, the full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should:

- a) Be printed on every regular and special Council meeting agenda, and
- b) Read out loud at Council meetings where appropriate, as determined by the Mayor or presiding officer.

Additionally, the Land Acknowledgement may be used at the beginning of meetings or other events hosted by the City. Such meetings could include, but are not limited to:

- c) City staff meetings;
- d) City Advisory Board or Commission meetings;
- e) Community meetings hosted by the City, such as town halls, open houses, focus groups, or similar;
- f) Ceremonial events, such as ribbon-cuttings; and
- g) City events, such as large-scale Parks, Culture, and Recreation events.

It is not recommended to assert or suggest using the Land Acknowledgement for meetings or events hosted by other organizations.

### Recommendations for Use at City Meetings or Events:

1. The full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should be read at the beginning of meetings or events.
2. Keep the introduction of the Land Acknowledgement simple and direct:  
“To start this meeting/event, I would like to read the City’s adopted Land Acknowledgment statement...”
3. Best practice guidance from Indigenous People is that you speak from your heart when reading the Land Acknowledgement, do not make the reading performative.
4. Do not include other announcements about social, political, or City initiatives alongside the Land Acknowledgement. The Land Acknowledgement should be and feel separate from any other announcements.

If anyone at a City meeting or event has a question or concern about the use of the Land Acknowledgement, they can refer to the City’s website [www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement) and/or the City’s Manager Office.

### 2. City Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents

The full text of the Land Acknowledgement can be added to the beginning of City Plans, Reports and Other Adopted Documents. In this context, “Adopted Documents” is defined as policy documents that are adopted by the City Council.

For such documents, the full text of the Land Acknowledgement should be used with the footer:

“Visit [www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement) for more information.”

As some documents have pages that are intentionally left blank, the Land Acknowledgement should appear on the first page that has text after the cover page. The Land Acknowledgement should appear before all other text elements. No visual or graphics should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text. The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author’s discretion.

### 3. Signage, Markers, Maps, and Other Materials

The full or abbreviated Land Acknowledgement can be added to printed City signage, markers, maps, and other materials.

For such a use, when possible, the full Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following footer:

“Visit [www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement](http://www.CityofLacey.org/LandAcknowledgement) for more information.”

With projects with space limitations that prevent the use of the full Land Acknowledgement, the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement should be used, with the following footer:

“Visit [www.CityofLacey.org/Land Acknowledgement](http://www.CityofLacey.org/Land Acknowledgement) for more information.”

No visual or graphic should accompany or be integrated into the Land Acknowledgement text. The Land Acknowledgement should be set in the same font as other text in the document. Italics may be used at the author’s discretion.

#### *Land Acknowledgement on City Webpages*

A link to the Land Acknowledgement webpage should be made available on the top banner of the City website and other City operated websites. Given the presence of this link, there is no need to include the Land Acknowledgement on specific projects, programs, or other webpages. A link to the [Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854](#) will be provided on the Land Acknowledgement page.