



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

February 09, 2023

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker, Kiara Daniels,
Sarah Rumbaugh, John Hines (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 5:10 p.m.

Council Member Daniels participated virtually.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Approval of Minutes

1. [23-0116](#) Approval of minutes of September 22, 2022, meeting.
2. [23-0117](#) Approval of the minutes of the October 27, 2022, meeting.
3. [23-0118](#) Approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chair Blocker moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, October 27, and November 10, 2022, meetings.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Daniels

Briefing Items

4. [23-0115](#) Closed Captioning Update
[Jeff Lueders, Interim Director, Media and Communications Office]

At approximately 4:41 p.m., Jeff Lueders, Interim Director, Media and Communications Office, presented an update on closed captioning, including an overview; live closed captioning, noting background and details of the current contract; post-production captioning; Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services; CART cost estimates, noting in-person CART services and artificial intelligence captioning; closed captioning abilities through TV Tacoma's current product that plays back video programming on TV Tacoma; Ordinance No. 28649, regarding provision of universal closed captioning; and misperception of closed captioning.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the closed captioning abilities through TV Tacoma's current product, the accuracy of closed captioning programming, the cost of closed captioning for all TV Tacoma programs, if closed captioning can be subsidized by advertisements on TV Tacoma, if the closed captioning will be translated to spanish, and the expected start date for CART services.

5. [23-0120](#) Code Compliance Overview
[DeJa Irving, Code Inspector Supervisor, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:58 p.m., DeJa Irving, Code Inspector Supervisor, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented on code compliance efforts related to nuisance and derelict building codes, including an overview; nuisance on private property; 2022 case types by percentage; and 2022 derelict buildings, noting definitions and photos of substandard, derelict, and unfit buildings. She concluded by listing the current top 12 problem properties; example images of a problem property; and nuisance outreach, noting the YARD Program and resources for the elderly and disabled, and private property encampment abatement.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 5:10 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding if property taxes are considered when providing resources to the disabled and elderly, code compliance based on complaints, renter versus homeowner compliance, the 2022 case types by percentage, if use of TacomaFIRST311 SeeClickFix has resulted in more or fewer complaints, the top 12 problem properties, the elevation from nuisance to

chronic nuisance status, and receivership.

6. [23-0114](#) Chronic Nuisance Law and Application
[Danielle Larson, Tax & License Division Manager, Finance]

At approximately 5:23 p.m., Danielle Larson, Tax and License Manager, Finance, presented an update on the chronic nuisance code, including background, noting why it was created, the intent, 2018 chronic nuisance code amendments, and 2018 business license code amendments; and issues. Christopher Travis, Captain, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), concluded by reviewing next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding nuisance and chronic nuisance repeat offenders, business owners committing chronic nuisance violations, inclusion of garbage in the chronic nuisance code, the responsible party after vandalism occurs, how the City can assist business and property owners with preventing garbage and vandalism, the speed of applying the chronic nuisance law, the reporting timeline, the number of cases TPD handles, tracking cases that are complying with the law, applying chronic nuisance to residences, educating business owners about crime prevention by environmental design, and potential name changes for the chronic nuisance code and nuisance code.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

7. [23-0119](#) February 23, 2023 - Human Rights Commission Interviews;
Community Trauma Response Team
March 9, 2023 - Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board
Interviews
March 23, 2023 - Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Interviews;
Federal Grant Programs for Annual Action Plan

Joe Franco, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on February 23, 2023, and will include interviews for the Human Rights Commission and a presentation on the community trauma response team; the March 9, 2023, meeting will include interviews for the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board and an update on the opioid settlement; and the March 23, 2023, meeting will be cancelled.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Catherine Ushka, Chair

Jessica Mazique, City Clerk's Office