



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

February 28, 2019

4:30 PM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,
Chris Beale, Robert Thoms, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

Present: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Approval of Minutes

1. [19-0188](#) Approval of the Minutes of the February 14, 2019 Meeting

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2019 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Briefing Items

2. [19-0189](#) Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Interviews
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:43 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, provided information regarding vacancies on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA), including a Youth or Young Adult and an Alternate position. She stated Vaelupemaua Anitema Talamoni, Jason Gamboa, and Saiyare Refaei are

seeking reappointment; and Ms. Anitema Talamoni was unable to attend the interviews and provided written response. Ms. Sorum concluded by informing the Committee that Ms. Refaei no longer qualifies for the Youth or Young Adult position, and if recommended for reappointment would need to be placed in a Member position.

The Committee interviewed Jason Gamboa, Saiyare Refaei, Derek Martinez, and Perla Gamboa-Ravelo.

Discussion ensued regarding the Youth or Young Adult position, the idea of reassigning members in order to maintain members seeking reappointment, the number of positions that can be filled without reassigning members, and reaching out to current members to confirm if they are willing to be reassigned before motions are made recommending individuals to the CIRA.

3. [19-0190](#)

2019 Tacoma Gang Assessment

[Vicky McLaurin, Social Wellness Program Manager; Yvette Ferrell, Systems Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 5:20 p.m., Yvette Ferrell, Systems Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented the 2019 Tacoma Gang Assessment.

The Committee recessed at 5:23 p.m. and reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

Ms. Ferrell provided an overview of the Tacoma Gang Assessment, stating the graphs and charts provided are to illustrate each key finding. She proceeded to describe the first key finding, noting patterns of gang violence from 2011 to 2018, the type of weapon used in violent crimes by age, and gang and non-gang related murders and aggravated assaults in Tacoma between 2015 and 2018; the second key finding, noting all gang related homicide and aggravated assaults in 2018, and a comparison chart of 2017 violent crimes per 100,000 people in Tacoma and surrounding cities; the third key finding, noting percentage of children and youth in Tacoma that are exposed to critical risk factors for gang involvement; and the fourth key finding, noting identified gaps in the gang data collection. She concluded by reviewing recommendations, the 2015-2020 external contract investments, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding if the gang related homicide suspects were engaged with the one gang related murder in 2018, why the analysis on gang related data would vary, if individuals involved in gang violence and activity in Tacoma are from Tacoma, and recommendations. Discussion continued on the four key findings, white supremacy groups in regards to how they are classified in the report and the data on these groups, and the purpose of the Tacoma Gang Assessment.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [19-0191](#) March 14, 2019 - Library Board of Trustees Annual Report and Neighborhood and Community Services Pilot Project.

March 28, 2019 - Hilltop Links to Opportunity Project and Strategy for Domestic Violence Alliance.

William Suarez, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on March 14, 2019, and will include presentations on the Library Board of Trustees Annual Report and Neighborhood and Community Services pilot project. He further stated the meeting on March 28, 2019 will include presentations on the Hilltop Links to Opportunity project and strategy for Domestic Violence Alliance.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Ushka described an apparent increase of hate related activity related to white supremacists in the community, and requested a presentation from Tacoma Police Department regarding data on violent crimes and their relationship to hate activities and white supremacist activities in general.

Discussion ensued regarding topics to include in the presentation, the appropriate representative to present the data, and receiving data from Pierce County (PC).

Chair Blocker stated he received a request from PC Council Member Ladenburg to have a joint meeting with the Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee and PC Human Services Committee (HSC). He stated this would be a great opportunity for the City and PC to come together and share information on what each jurisdiction is doing and see where they can work together to collaborate. Chair Blocker concluded by stating the initial topics of interest for the joint meeting would include an overview of the work CVS and PC HSC are doing in regards to homelessness, mental health, and affordable housing; the meeting will be scheduled for late April; and he is informing the CVS Committee Members now so they can share topics they would like to see covered at the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding inclusion of the strategy for the Domestic Violence Alliance as a topic at the meeting, the initial topics of


interest, and which PC Council Members serve on the PC HSC.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



Keith Blocker, Chair



Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office