



City of Tacoma Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

April 28, 2022

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 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Rumbaugh

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0506](#) Human Rights Commission Interviews
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:31 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, informed the Committee they will be interviewing six applicants for the Human Rights Commission, that Sophie Bonomi withdrew from consideration, and Amanda Westbrooke is seeking reappointment. She further stated that there are four member positions available on the Commission.

The Committee interviewed Mark Henderson, Robbi Johnston, Janice Langbehn, Amanda Westbrooke, and Artyom Yakimovich. Sorum stated that Alexandria Garrett was unable to participate.

Discussion ensued regarding available positions; applicants' qualifications; tenure and skills of current members; and the importance of diversity on the committees, boards, and commissions.

MOTION: Council Member Hines moved to recommend the reappointment of Amanda Westbrooke to the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire February 28, 2025.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Rumbaugh

MOTION: Council Member Hines moved to recommend the appointment of Janice Langbehn to the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire February 28, 2025.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Rumbaugh

MOTION: Council Member Hines moved to recommend the appointment of Artyom Yakimovich to the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire February 28, 2025.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Rumbaugh

MOTION: Council Member Hines moved to recommend the appointment of Robbi Johnston to the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire February 28, 2025.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Rumbaugh

2. [22-0507](#) Review of the City’s Administrative Policy on Encampment Removal [Allyson Griffith, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office]

At approximately 5:33 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, introduced Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, and presented the City's administrative policy on encampment removal, including an overview, background, the authorization process, an example of a seven-day removal notice, and the number of encampment removals on public and private property in 2021 and 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding how trespassing is regulated and which codes are used on notices, what an emergent public safety need is, the type and number of calls that lead to encampment removal, the administrative decision, obstruction of a right-of-way and removal of obstructions, capacity issues of the Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaison Team, communication with property owners who complain about encampments nearby, encampments where homicides have occurred, how to create a guideline and transparency with the community, posting an encampment removal schedule online, the City’s program to help independent property owners clean up, encampment removals leading to people seeking shelters, how the community continues to show their interest, if there are any locations in the City where encampments are absolutely not allowed, how many people refused to leave encampments that were removed, people being understanding of their removal request date being moved back if necessary, and whether services are being offered before removal of encampments.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [22-0508](#) May 12, 2022 - Human Services Commission Interviews
May 26, 2022 - Firearm and Ammunition Tax - Report on Evidence-based Principles and Practices for Youth Gun Violence Prevention
June 9, 2022 - Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on May 12, 2022, and will include interviews for the Human Services Commission; that the May 26, 2022, meeting will include a presentation of the firearm and ammunition tax report on evidence-based principles and practices for youth gun violence prevention; and that the June 9, 2022, meeting will include a presentation on the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness.

Other Items of Interest

Chair Ushka stated that she attended the April 28, 2022, meeting of the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority, where they discussed a property transfer from Pierce County to the City, and discussed the importance of building the economy and affordable housing.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office