



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

1660 L Street Northwest, Suite 501

Washington D.C. 20036

March 12, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council conducted a special meeting of the Council beginning at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at various locations in and around Simon and Company, Incorporated, Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs, 1660 L Street Northwest, Suite 501, Washington, D.C. 20036. This meeting recessed from time to time based on revisions to the itinerary.

Present: 5 - Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter and Thoms

REGULAR AGENDA

Meeting with various federal legislators or their staff to discuss the City of Tacoma's Federal Legislative Priorities as adopted by Resolution No. 40195, and other matters pertaining to the City of Tacoma.

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

1:00 p.m.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

451 7th Street Southwest

Mayor Woodards spoke of various actions in Tacoma to provide more affordable housing and to address homelessness, including the City's Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan, including the Stability Site; the Affordable Housing Action Strategy; seeding of a local Housing Trust Fund; adoption of a 0.1 percent behavioral health tax; and partnership with the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) to open Arlington Drive Campus for homeless youth, and support of the Moving to Work Program that helps fund THA's Elementary School Housing Assistance Program, started at McCarver Elementary. The City Council offered additional details about these efforts and emphasized the need for permanent, supportive housing in Tacoma to help people out of chronic homelessness.

The United States Housing and Urban Development (USHUD) staff spoke of various resources that might support the City's efforts, including the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program funding available through the local Continuum of Care, the Community Development Block Grant, Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding that may be available through Washington State, borrowing capacity available through Section 108, Opportunity Zone designations and technical assistance from organizations such as Council of Development Finance Agencies and The Corporation for Supportive Housing.

2:00 p.m.

Interagency Council on Homelessness

301 7th Street Northwest

[Jasmine Hayes, Deputy Director; Saralyn Adish, Chief of Staff; Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator]

The City Council spoke of various actions in Tacoma to provide more affordable housing and to address homelessness, including the City's Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan, including the Stability Site; the Affordable Housing Action Strategy; partnership with the THA to open Arlington Drive Campus for homeless youth; and groundbreaking by the Young Women's Christian Association on a new project of 40 apartments, noting that one third of the residents in the City's Stability Site are victims of domestic violence.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) staff spoke of various resources that might support the City's efforts, including a recently produced document by USICH containing guidance for how to align homeless strategies and housing strategies; Washington State's current exploration of how to use Medicaid to help people attain housing; domestic violence funding available through the local Continuum of Care, to help with rapid re-housing and other strategies; and the USHUD's Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing Component, that allows communities to provide low-barrier, temporary housing while individuals and families are being quickly and seamlessly connected to permanent housing through a rapid re-housing intervention. USICH staff noted that Congress is incredibly interested in youth homelessness.

3:00 p.m.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Office of Justice Programs; Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs; and Office of Communications
810 7th Street Northwest

[Scott Pestrige, Program Manager; Michelle Sicat-Morales, Deputy Assistant Secretary; Adam Spector,
Congressional Affairs Specialist]

Mayor Woodards shared a history of the City's partnership with the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program (OJJDP), beginning with the City conducting its first gang assessment in 2011, and this year the City just finalized an update to its gang reduction plan. Deputy Mayor McCarthy shared information about the work and accomplishments of the Pierce County Opioid Task Force, including the recent expansion of Tacoma Fire Department CARES to provide mobile access to opioid addiction treatment.

USDOJ staff recalled some past projects and people in Tacoma with whom they have worked, including Judges Frank Cuthbertson and James Orlando; and shared information on resources that may be helpful to Tacoma's current efforts, including OJJDP Mentoring Funds, which target trauma as one major indicator of youth who may follow a trajectory toward gangs or substance abuse; the Second Chance Act funds diversion; Balanced and Restorative Justice grants which encourage restorative justice; and funds received by Tribes for Native American response to opioids. DOJ staff encouraged the City to be creative in connecting its programs to the criteria in funding opportunities; and stated for any solicitation, it is possible, and encouraged, to find a partner. DOJ staff expressed a mutual interest in pursuing partnerships with the City on demonstration pilots of larger initiatives the City endeavors to launch.

6:30 p.m.

Federal Briefing Dinner

Lebanese Taverna - 2641 Connecticut Avenue Northwest

The City Council attended the Federal Briefing Dinner.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

10:00 a.m.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
500 12th Street Southwest
[Alaina Clark, Deputy Assistant Secretary]

Mayor Woodards and Deputy Mayor McCarthy lead the City Council in sharing with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS/ICE) staff their concerns regarding the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), noting that they have all visited the facility and citing incidents of an outbreak of chicken pox, complaints of poor quality food, and a recent death as among examples prompting their concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding poor communication and lack of communication as conditions that contribute to a perpetuation of rumors about, and distrust of, the NWDC.

The City Council presented to DHS/ICE staff a copy of a letter the City Council would be delivering to each of their Congress Members asking them to advance efforts that would address the concerns about the health, safety, civil rights, and human dignity exercised in the NWDC.

The City Council specifically asked if DHS/ICE could help provide more transparency for the City of the operations in the NWDC, and allow or invite the operator of NWDC, Geo Group, to be more forthcoming with information about their operations.

Barbara Gonzalez, Acting Assistant Director, Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office, and Dave Jennings, Assistant Director, Field Operations, offered to travel to Tacoma to meet with members of the community. Mr. Jennings stated he has made trips to Tacoma in the past, and it was suggested that he meet with the City's Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Mike Melendez, Northwest Detention Center, also shared that he used to meet regularly with Tacoma community members and offered that a similar, regular practice may be something the City Council and DHS consider creating. Staff reported that the Federal Protective Service (FPS) is currently negotiating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Tacoma Police, in which FPS would provide the security services necessary when major gatherings and events take place at the NWDC. The City Council offered to support any appropriations or funding requests that may be

necessary to implement such MOU.

12:30 p.m.

Senator Patty Murray

154 Russell Senate Office Building

[Zach Mallove, Legislative Assistant]

Zach Mallove, Legislative Assistant, Senator Patty Murray's Office, opened the meeting expressing regrets that Senator Murray would, most likely, not be able to join the meeting as she had family matters to tend to that had required her to make an unexpected trip to Washington State. The City Council shared with Mr. Mallove the items on the City's Federal Agenda that they would like the Senator to be attentive to, including advancing Federal support for creating more affordable housing; assisting the City in finding resources to move people out of homelessness; supporting the response to the opioid epidemic; and continuing to support programs at the Environmental Protection Agency, such as the National Estuary Program, that help the City advance clean water technologies, including the permeable pavement design research that is being conducted with students at Industrial Design, Engineering, and Art School. The City Council also invited Senator Murray to the celebration of the renaming of the Puyallup Avenue Bridge to Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge; and delivered the letter regarding the City Council's concerns about the NWDC, asking Senator Murray to advance efforts that would respond to those concerns.

1:20 p.m.

Representative Derek Kilmer

1410 Longworth House Office Building

The meeting with Representative Derek Kilmer did not have a quorum of the City Council.

2:00 p.m.

Representative Adam Smith

2264 Rayburn House Office Building

The meeting with Representative Adam Smith did not have a quorum of the City Council.

2:45 p.m.

Representative Denny Heck

2452 Rayburn House Office Building

The meeting with Representative Denny Heck did not have a quorum of the City Council.

3:30 p.m.

Senator Maria Cantwell

511 Hart Senate Office Building

The meeting with Senator Maria Cantwell did not have a quorum of the City Council.

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There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk