



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**April 09, 2024**  
**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Ushka and Walker

### Briefing Items

1. [24-0371](#)

Tacoma Municipal Therapeutic Courts  
[Drew Henke, Judge; Dee Sonntag, Judge, Municipal Court]

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Drew Henke and Dee Sonntag, Judges, Tacoma Municipal Court, together provided opening remarks on the Tacoma Municipal Therapeutic Courts including an agenda; introductions; what therapeutic courts are, noting they are voluntary and aim to reduce criminal behavior; key components; Therapeutic Courts team; other courts, noting Mental Health Court and Community Court; Mental Health Court overview, noting mission statement and program goals, eligibility criteria, exclusions, and phases; and standardized stipulated order of continuance conditions.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for finding alternative ways to help the community; process on how the decision for each specific court is made; individuals that fall outside of the criteria; and how often the recommendation occurs per individual, noting conversations with defense attorneys.

Together, Henke and Sonntag continued with the Community Court overview, mission statement, eligibility, and a matrix outlining, noting charges and offense levels and track and offense levels; Therapeutic Court data, noting current program statistics; Mental Health Court and Community Court participant demographics, noting age, race, gender, and ethnicity; demographics data related to declined cases; Community Court graduate

demographics; and opportunities to support Therapeutic Courts.

Discussion continued regarding case load, noting referral process; restitution payment; mental health diagnosis, noting evaluations; objective criteria, noting eligible charges; Prosecutor's Office collaboration and relationship; charges, noting patterns and trends; access to resources and resource center; success in property crimes; Pierce County's various courts and other cities' therapeutic courts; participant housing issues; back log from during the COVID-19 pandemic; funding; and community service, noting tracking and support.

2. [24-0372](#) Tacoma Fire Department November 2024 General Election Ballot Item  
[Katie Johnston, Chief Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget;  
Toryono Green, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department]

At approximately 1:13 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented opening remarks and presented an agenda; revenue strategy development, noting guiding principles and considerations; and a summary of the revenue strategy, noting items in progress, recently updated, and survey. Toryono Green, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), continued with the proposed fire facilities, fleet and operations levy, noting 85 percent of the TFD facilities were rated in poor or critical condition; TFD budget; planned South Tacoma Station; emergency medical services levy lid lift update, noting commitment and status; commissioned staffing timeline; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding survey feedback, noting lack of reaching the 60 percent needed to approve the bond; lack of replacement plan, noting the current plan for new apparatuses and ideal replacement cycle; Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) grants and grant competitiveness; facility locations, noting updates, long term plan, and property assessment; levy lift authorization, noting permanent levy; priority list and visual map; budget growth; levy transparency, accountability, and explanation; proposals, including Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement team and more smaller vehicles; the need of multiple City facilities; building trust in community; increase in calls, noting the types of calls; and facility tours.

## Other Items of Interest

3. [24-0376](#) Council Consideration Request - Amendment to Tacoma Municipal Code Section 8.12.150 to Revise Littering and Illegal Dumping Penalties and Definitions  
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

Deputy Mayor Hines presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for support to advance an ordinance amending Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC)

Section 8.12.150 to create alignment with Washington state law regarding littering and illegal dumping penalties and definitions, noting there is more legal research needed and the CCR presented may potentially change. He concluded by stating that the penalty for littering is the same regardless of the amount or type of litter and is proposing a tiered approach to the fine to mirror the new littering and illegal dumping code recently adopted under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2207 and codified in the Revised Code of Washington.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for leadership; impacts and perception of litter; educating the community; natural resource spaces; criminal activity, noting how it would impact policing in the City, and enforcement; and relationship between Tidy up Tacoma and If It Hits the Ground, It Hits the Sound.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-0373](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 4, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Executive Session - Pending Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Ushka and Walker

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:45 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened,  
at 2:57 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



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Nicole Emery, City Clerk