



City of Tacoma

Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

August 09, 2022

3:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Woodards

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Council Member Blocker arrived at 3:05 p.m.

Briefing Item

1. [22-0878](#) Council Priority Strategy Workshop Part 2: Health

At approximately 3:02 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks and introduced Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications Office (MCO). Jumper reviewed the workshop timing and goals, and introduced Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, MCO. Colon further outlined today's key objectives, and previous workshops, noting the previously-reviewed priority areas of safety, housing and homelessness, livable wage jobs, and access to facilities and services. Colon concluded by introducing the priority area of health, including the five objectives to be discussed, noting increasing access to health opportunities and conditions, increasing access to healthy food, achieving Climate Action Plan goals, keeping Tacoma's environment clean and healthy, and improving mental and behavioral health outcomes.

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 3:05 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding measurements for increasing access to health opportunities and conditions, including reducing the disparity of life expectancy rates across the City; achieving the City's tree canopy goals; achieving accessible clinics and medical services throughout the City;

eliminating food deserts; and increasing access to parks within 10 minutes of homes by 50 percent, the amount of walkable streets, and the usage of park and trail amenities by all races and cultures.

Together, Jumper and Colon summarized the top measures, including reducing the disparity of life expectancy rates across the City; and increasing access to parks within 10 minutes of homes by 50 percent, and the amount of walkable streets.

Discussion continued regarding measurements for increasing access to healthy food, including creating a mobile produce bus, incentives for diverse farmers markets across low opportunity areas, and a farmers market and food bank in every district; increasing cross-cultural food education, the number of food co-ops, the number of independent and culturally relevant grocery stores, and the number of urban farms; eliminating food deserts; standardizing the definition of grocery stores; and incentivizing healthier food distribution and creation.

Together, Jumper and Colon summarized the top measures, including eliminating food deserts, and incentivizing healthier food distribution and creation.

Discussion continued regarding measurements for keeping Tacoma's environment clean and healthy, including providing full funding for the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative, doubling the number of households using electric transportation, eliminating litter and garbage in right-of-ways, decreasing constituent complaints, making Commencement Bay and area lakes safe for swimming, shellfish that is not toxic, increasing permeable pavement by a significant amount, completing the Tideflats Subarea Plan, and ensuring that development is using green infrastructure.

Together, Jumper and Colon summarized the top measures, including providing full funding for the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative, doubling the number of households using electric transportation, and making Commencement Bay and area lakes safe for swimming.

Discussion continued regarding measurements for improving mental and behavioral health outcomes, including increasing permanent supportive housing by 50 percent; ensuring everyone can access affordable mental health care without stigma; decreasing the number of students experiencing depression, based on the Tacoma Public Schools healthy youth survey; reducing calls for mental health services by 50 percent; implementing an alternative response program; establishing around-the-clock emergency mental health services; increasing the number of psychiatric beds, crisis responders, and mental health workers available; and aligning a strategy and gap analysis of mental health services.

Together, Jumper and Colon summarized the top measures, including decreasing the number of students experiencing depression, based on the Tacoma Public Schools healthy youth survey; and increasing the number of psychiatric beds and mental health workers available.

Colon stated that the City's Climate Action Plan goals were established and adopted by the City Council via the Climate Action Plan, and therefore will not be reviewed in this workshop.

Mayor Woodards concluded by presenting next steps, including the upcoming Committee of the Whole special meeting on August 16, 2022, on the priority of belief and trust, and upcoming budget discussions. Jumper stated that staff will provide a crosswalk between priority areas and budget items and additional details for the City Council's budget discussions.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk