



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**October 19, 2021**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:04 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [21-1002](#) Heal the Heart Update

This item was not addressed. Mayor Woodards stated the presentation will be rescheduled for a future study session.

2. [21-1003](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 12:02 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented an update on systems transformation, including new items, noting an upcoming presentation from the Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team, and equitable recruiting and selection practices.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:04 p.m.

City Manager Pauli continued by reviewing the pilot equity training for committee, board, and commission members; the equity toolkit and Citywide assessment; 21st Century Policing Solutions recommended policy updates, noting recent approval of a contract with Lexipol to review and update various Tacoma Police Department (TPD) policies; TPD Chief recruitment, noting executive recruiter review, timeline, community involvement, and next steps;

review of proposals for the communication strategy assessment and recommendations; federal and state legislative priorities; and the transformation timeline and history available at [cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://cityoftacoma.org/transform).

## Other Items of Interest

3. [21-1004](#) Council Consideration Request -Expanding Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Membership

Council Member Ushka presented a Council Consideration Request to expand membership on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) from 11 to 13 members, including background on the request from CIRA, noting the goal to better distribute the Commission's work; CIRA's presentation to the Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee Thursday, September 23, 2021; CIRA members' active active participation on multiple subcommittees; and CVS Committee support to expand CIRA's membership.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for CIRA members; and sponsorship by Council Members Hines and Hunter, and Deputy Mayor Blocker.

4. [21-1005](#) Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations Amendments

This item was not addressed.

- 4a. [21-1021](#) Draft Joint Statement on Actions Underway to Address Community Safety

Mayor Woodards presented a draft joint statement on actions underway to address community safety, noting administrative activities, the importance of providing regular communications to the community, addressing violent crime, appreciation for Council Members Ushka and Walker for helping to draft the statement, alternate ways to communicate and support the work, the high demand for a response from the City leadership and the City Council, a request to approve the joint statement at tonight's meeting, and the importance of providing a statement from the entire City Council about this commitment.

Discussion ensued regarding additional items to include in the statement; issues and changes related to TPD recruitment challenges, noting an effort to recruit female officers of color; highlighting funding and efforts related to divertible calls, the new Community Safety Office, and Tidy-Up Tacoma; ongoing regional and national issues; communicating about the City Council

statement with the Interim Police Chief and Police Chief applicants; how TPD staffing impacts crime rates; high property crime rates compared to the region; decreasing the time between hiring and getting new officers to work, noting opportunities related to lateral hires; COVID-19 impacts; acknowledging the challenges being faced by the community; appreciation for staff who worked on the draft statement; and next steps to finalize and distribute the statement.

5. [21-1006](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Ed Wade, Assistant Chief, TPD, stated there are no new updates on the Manuel Ellis investigation, and outlined the current process, including the next steps for him to receive a presentation of the draft cases for review, and to refer his recommendations to the Interim Police Chief.

Discussion ensued regarding the expected timeline for presentation of the cases to the Assistant Police Chief.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

**Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

6. [21-1007](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 14, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Thursday, October 21, 2021, as Community Conflict Resolution Day, and proclaiming October 2021 as Italian American Heritage and Culture Month, and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

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Council Member Hines reported that at the Government Performance and Finance (GPF) Committee meeting earlier today, the Committee held its third discussion on the Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) Program, and that he will be working with staff to prepare a package of all the proposals and distribute it to Council Members in advance of the next GPF Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. He concluded by stating the GPF Committee intends to forward their recommendation so it can be considered in tandem with the Home in Tacoma Project discussions that are underway by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk