



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session 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
April 19, 2022
12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Briefing Items

1. [22-0473](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks and introduced Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, and Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager, NCS. Ms. Griffith presented the homeless services update, including an overview, program staffing, public property encampment removals, a pilot program for private property encampment abatement, inclement weather response, City-funded shelter status, shelter work that is underway, analysis of public property for temporary shelters, characteristics of temporary shelter sites, and details on a potential shelter location. Ms. Stewart further presented the homeless strategy, noting vision, mission, values, and goals; and strategies related to housing and access to shelters and services.

Discussion ensued regarding strategies used in other cities; service availability and options, noting permanent shelters, young adult shelters, designated encampments, affordable housing, and safe parking sites; the process to move encampments; ensuring service availability; design standards for shelters and housing; community support for shelter sites and services; language barriers; enhancing existing policies and resources; the Martin v. City of Boise Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision regarding public camping; data, noting the number of shelters by Council District, and real-time data on homeless individuals and shelter availability; and services in Pierce County versus inside the City limits.

2. [22-0474](#) Tacoma Police Department Crime Reduction Plan

At approximately 1:44 p.m., Avery Moore, Police Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented the TPD crime reduction plan, including an agenda; background; violent crime rates; principles of violence reduction; prerequisites for a successful violent crime reduction strategy; the TPD violence reduction plan; immediate violent crime response strategies, noting hot spot policing; mid-term strategies, noting the place-based strategy; long-term strategies, noting focused deterrence, and blight and disorder abatement; and timelines for 2022 and 2023-2024.

Discussion ensued regarding positive feedback from the community; how the environment impacts crime; support for staff and community groups that clean up blight, graffiti and litter; issues related to vacant buildings; data collection, noting equity in enforcement, TPD data, and community data; outreach strategies and impacts, noting future community listening sessions; updating the plan; investing in communities; appreciation for Chief Avery and TPD staff; addressing increased crime against people and property; mental health services; limitations of the courts and jail capacity; high-visibility patrols and community-based policing; identifying and addressing hot spots; encouraging people to call 911 or 311 to report issues; the relationship between the City Council and TPD; unified messaging and collaboration; impacts of recent arrests; support for residents and businesses; the focus on reducing victims of crime; and next steps to communicate about and refine the plan.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

Council Member Walker stated that the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee provided a memo regarding shipping containers and electric fences in the April 7, 2022, weekly report, and that this topic will come forward for full City Council review in the coming weeks.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [22-0476](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 14, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Friday, April 22, 2022, as Earth Day; and that one change is expected to tonight's agenda, for a proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 28810, regarding rates of pay and compensation for a new Police Chief of Staff classification, to include language allowing the ordinance to become effective immediately upon passage.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Ushka moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:53 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:03 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk