



# City of Tacoma

## Economic Development

### Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 248  
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/88227539908](http://www.zoom.us/j/88227539908) Passcode: 614650

**July 12, 2022**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Kiara Daniels, Joe Bushnell,  
Sarah Rumbaugh (alternate)**

### Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Rumbaugh

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Vice Chair Daniels participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [22-0743](#) The World Trade Center Tacoma  
[Debbie Bingham, Project Manager,  
Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:01 a.m., Debbie Bingham, Community and Economic Development, introduced Michael Fowler, Managing Director and Senior Trade Consultant, and David Graybill, Board of Directors President, World Trade Center (WTC) Tacoma.

Vice Chair Daniels arrived here at 10:02 a.m.

Fowler presented on the World Trade Center Tacoma which included slides on the World Trade Center association, services and income overview, educational events and training, virtual events scope, the WTC Tacoma globe awards, the focus on small and medium sized enterprises, the WTC Tacoma role, virtual trade missions, troubleshooting, investments in the City, and trade and investment missions.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding membership costs, diversity within the WTC Tacoma staffing, how changes in trade due to turmoil in other

countries, opportunities to bring Tacoma students in as interns, the opportunity to bring semi-conductors to the City, the possibility of helping with costs of shipping, companies sharing shipping containers, and small businesses expanding nationally before going international.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. [22-0744](#) July 26, 2022 - Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee Interviews

August 9, 2022 - Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee Interviews;  
Sister Cities Update

August 23, 2022 - Tacoma Creates Advisory Board Interviews;  
Business Financing Update (tentative)

Cathy Sims, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on July 26, 2022, and will include interviews for the Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee (EIC), the August 9, 2022, meeting will continue the EIC interviews and include an update from Tacoma's Sister Cities; and that the August 23, 2022, meeting will include the interviews for the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board and an update on business financing.

## Other Items of Interest

Council Member Bushnell proposed an idea for the Committee to create and present to the full City Council an economic development package to support through the budget process of helping, retaining, and growing businesses in the City; and to see a return on investments the City can make.

Council Member Rumbaugh requested an update on the new Business Improvement Areas (BIA) be brought to the Committee and study session.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



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Keith Blocker, Chair



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Kiaira Thomas, City Clerk's Office