



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 823 7010 6303

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/82370106303 Passcode: 614650

March 24, 2022

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker, Kiara Daniels,
Sarah Rumbaugh, John Hines (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [22-0365](#) Approval of the minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting

MOTION: Council Member Daniels moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting.

SECONDED BY: Vice Chair Blocker.

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

Ayes: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Briefing Items

2. [22-0362](#) 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development
[Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 4:35 p.m., Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided opening remarks and introduced Erika Bartlett, Contract and Program Auditor, CED. Bartlett presented the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for Housing and

Community Development, including the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan; 2022-2023 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) allocations, noting housing, economic development, and public services; Emergency Solutions Grant allocations; HOME Investment Partnerships Program allocations; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding new programs, the number of individuals served and measurable results, the Shelter Training Academy program, sources of funding, the application process, and the timeline of the projects.

MOTION: Vice Chair Blocker moved to forward the staff recommendations on the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development to the full City Council for consideration.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

3. [22-0363](#) Discussion of a Report to Council on Camping on Public Property [Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka, Chair, Community Vitality & Safety Committee]

At approximately 4:52 p.m., Chair Ushka provided opening remarks and presented a review of the draft recommendations to the full City Council, including an initial report and work completed, noting a summary of primary considerations and overview of other municipal camping ordinances, update on the divertible/alternative calls study, GIS map of school parks and City authorized camping sites, reliability of existing data on available shelter space in real time, community volunteer options, meeting with stakeholders and public input, and accountability measures. She concluded by reviewing other ideas considered and rejected, and the Committee's current recommendations.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding other municipality's camping ordinances, the organization of public comment, disproportionately negative effects on populations of people of color, barriers to obtaining housing, shelter and housing availability, camp capacity and code enforcement standards, issues around keeping people housed in the first place, shelter capacity goals and defining those goals, the cost of low-barrier shelters, the number of shelter beds within Tacoma that are funded by the City, other types of shelter that need funding, utilizing Pierce County data versus City of Tacoma data, the increasing prices of housing, the ending of the moratoriums

that were put in place due to COVID-19, concentrating on certain areas of the City rather than utilizing numbers, City goals versus Pierce County goals, the parameters of the City's Emergency Declaration, the Point in Time Count, the Martin v. City of Boise Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision, moving encampments or individuals for health and safety reasons, and other options for review.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [22-0364](#) April 14, 2022 - Interviews for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
 April 21, 2022 Special Meeting - Continuation of Interviews for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
 April 28, 2022 - Interviews for the Human Rights Commission
 May 12, 2022 - Interviews for the Human Services Commission

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be held on April 14, 2022, and will include interviews for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA); that there will be a special meeting on April 21, 2022, for continuation of the CIRA interviews; that the April 28, 2022, meeting will include interviews for the Human Rights Commission; and that the May 12, 2022, meeting will include interviews for the Human Services Commission.

Other Items of Interest

Vice Chair Blocker stated that he attended a meeting with the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board, regarding a project on Pacific Avenue with Mercy Housing for an 80-unit complex that would provide childcare services.

Chair Ushka stated she attended a meeting with the Tacoma Area Commission On Disabilities, regarding accessible taxi service.

Council Member Daniels requested more Committee time to discuss camping on public property.

Discussion ensued regarding periodic updates on this topic to the Committee, inviting someone from the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness to speak with the Committee, the Neighborhood and Community Services Homeless Strategy and their presentation at the April 12, 2022, City Council study session, and violence that may occur during the upcoming summer months.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Sally Perkins, speaking on the City's Emergency Declaration and homeless individuals.
2. Oneida Arnold, speaking on homeless individuals.
3. Ken Miller, speaking on the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



for

Catherine Ushka, Chair



Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office