



City of Tacoma Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

March 10, 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 4:35 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [22-0313](#) Minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2022
2. [22-0314](#) Minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2022
3. [22-0315](#) Minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2022
4. [22-0316](#) Minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2022

MOTION: Vice Chair Blocker moved to approve the minutes of the January 13 and 27, 2022, and February 10 and 24, 2022, meetings.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Briefing Items

5. [22-0317](#) Stakeholder Conversation and Committee Discussion Regarding the Camping Ban [Catherine Ushka, Chair, Community Vitality and Safety Committee]

At approximately 4:36 p.m., Chair Ushka provided opening remarks on the camping ban discussion; explained the discussion format; and welcomed the stakeholders to introduce themselves, including Troy Christensen, Executive Director, Rainbow Center; Evelyn Lopez, Member, CompassionTacoma; David Combs, President, Hilltop Business Association; Rob Huff, Member, Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness; and David Schroedel, Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership.

Discussion ensued regarding whether stakeholders support a camping ban now, or in the future when more services and shelter or housing are available; what a camping ban would entail; what accountability looks like now versus what it might look like in the future; mental health and its connection with homelessness; how the City can manage accountability expectations; what resources or resolutions the City needs right now or should build towards; what types of tools the camping ban would provide to solving homelessness; the complexity of the issue; and the Committee's appreciation for the participation of the stakeholders

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

6. [22-0318](#) March 24, 2022 - 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development; Determine Recommendation to Full Council on Camping Ban
April 14, 2022 - 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 the next meeting will be on March 24, 2022, and will include a presentation on the 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan for housing and community development, and the determination of the final recommendation on the camping ban to the full City Council; the April 14, 2022, meeting will include interviews for the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; the April 28, 2022, meeting will include interviews for the Human Rights Commission; and the May 12, 2022, meeting will include interviews for the Human Services Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of applicants for the interviews in April and that a special meeting of the Committee may occur on March 31, 2022.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

7. [22-0327](#) Public Comment

The City Clerk’s Office received one written comment regarding unlawful camping in the city.

Public Comment was heard from:

- 1. Sally Perkins, speaking on the proposed camping ban, private property of homeless individuals, and encampment sweeps.
- 2. Keith Schuster, speaking on the stakeholder discussion.
- 3. Angela Connelly, speaking on the stakeholder discussion and establishing safe camping sites.
- 4. Brett Johnson, speaking on the stakeholder discussion and mental illness.
- 5. Kathy Lawhon, speaking on broken windows, the Tacoma Police Department, and a regional approach to homelessness.

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Discussion ensued regarding next steps for the camping ban.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



_____ for
Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office