



# City of Tacoma

## Community Vitality and Safety

### Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

July 12, 2018

4:30 PM

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Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,  
Chris Beale, Justin Camarata, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

#### Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

**Present:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Camarata

Council Member Camarata arrived at 4:36 p.m.

#### Briefing Items

1. [18-0768](#) Human Rights Commission Annual Report  
[Rebecca Stith, Chair, Human Rights Commission; Brad Bates, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission]

At approximately 4:36 p.m., Rebecca Stith, Chair, Human Rights Commission (HRC), made opening remarks.

Council Member Camarata arrived here, at 4:36 p.m.

Ms. Stith introduced Brad Bates, Commissioner, HRC, provided a background on HRC member positions and described the Commission's goals. She then presented the HRC annual report, including stating the commission is in a citizen-advisory role, the Commission's purpose, current protected categories in Section 1.29.010 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC), and principal duties and powers. Ms. Stith provided a snapshot of significant events in HRC's 50-year history, HRC accomplishments from January 2017 to June 2018, and the current work of the HRC standing committees. Mr. Bates presented the current work of the HRC task forces, details about the work of the task force that is focused on charity care access for non-English speakers, and provided an interim report. He concluded by reviewing concerns and possible causes of high turnover and absenteeism on

the Commission, and provided recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding how often the Commission reviews the anti-discrimination statement in TMC Section 1.29.010 and if the statement provided is the same as the City's, the geographic representation and demographics of the Commission, formal and informal channels of communication between Commissions and Council Members, and implementation of educational training on race and equity. Discussion concluded on the concerns and possible causes of high turnover and absenteeism.

2. [18-0771](#) Resolution about the Separation of Immigrant Families  
[Rebecca Stith, Chair, Human Rights Commission; Brad Bates, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission]

Chair Blocker stated this item has been removed from the agenda and will not be discussed today.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [18-0773](#) July 26, 2018 - United Way of Pierce County Center for Stronger Families, Tenants Rights, and Relocation Assistance  
August 9, 2018 - Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Interviews

William Suarez, Committee Liaison, stated the meeting on July 26, 2018 included United Way of Pierce County Center for Stronger Families but the presentation has been removed, and this meeting will include tenants' rights and relocation assistance. He further stated the meeting on August 9, 2018 will include Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities interviews.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.


## Public Comment

Public comment was heard from:

1. Al Ratcliff, Human Rights Commission, speaking on the Human Rights Commission annual report.
2. Elizabeth Keathley, speaking on the Human Rights Commission annual report.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.



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Keith Blocker, Chair



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Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office