



# City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

**August 08, 2017**

**12:00 PM**

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## Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

**Present:** 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Thoms, Walker  
Lee and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 1 - Mello

Council Member Mello arrived at 12:10 p.m.

## Briefing Items

1. [17-0795](#) Immigrant and Refugee Taskforce Convening Update

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights, introduced Liz Dunbar, Executive Director, Tacoma Community House, Amanda Diaz, Student Body President, University of Puget Sound, and Oksana Salo, Korean Women's Association, and thanked Manisha Paudel, Management Analyst, for providing the majority of staff support to the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force. Ms. Powers then provided a brief overview and background information relative to the convening of the Immigrant Refugee Task Force. Ms. Dunbar provided information on the proposed actions and Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Ms. Diaz reviewed the raised questions and provided logistics and impacts relative to the Tacoma families Immigrant Legal Defense Fund (ILDF), including why the Tacoma families ILDF is important for the City, how the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention stops full participation in the City, what the Tacoma families ILDF could look like, and what the Tacoma families ILDF would achieve. Ms. Salo provided information on language access ability, including data of language spoken at home, language barrier, and the national executive order. Ms. Dunbar concluded the presentation by reviewing the next steps.

Council Member Mello arrived here, at 12:10 p.m.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the legal staff composition, funding, the need for involving the pro bono law firms, access to more English classes, the need for expanding English as a Second Language classes, the Northwest Immigration Rights project, other organizations providing legal services, the need for discussing the source of the fund, and supporting other legal entities.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [17-0796](#) Council Consideration Request - Public Asset Mapping for Affordable Housing Use

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund, to support Forterra convening a comprehensive review to evaluate properties owned by the City and other government agencies in order to create a framework for evaluating opportunities for utilizing public and private-owned real estate for the public benefit.

Discussion ensued regarding the intentions, barriers, the need for a guiding document, property ownership, purpose, and anticipated end goal.

## Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee adopted the budget recommendation to the flood control zone district and the Board of Supervisors recommended to move up the payment for the flood wall for wastewater treatment plant. He then provided information relative to the City's poor air quality due to British Columbia wildfires, stating the general air quality health standard measurement when facing the wildfires is about 25 micrograms and current measurement has been 190 micrograms for several days.

Council Member Campbell thanked Council Member Mello for his leadership during the Walkability Summit and expressed his appreciation in learning what the City is doing right and the economics of a walkability city.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [17-0797](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, August 3, 2017

Assistant City Manager Tadd Wille stated there are no ceremonials or any expected changes to tonight's agenda, and the Mayor of the City of Brovary, Ukraine, will be signing documents pertaining to Resolution No. 39774, designating the City of Brovary as a Sister City.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

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Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk