



# City of Tacoma

## Community Vitality and Safety

### Committee Minutes

930 Tacoma Avenue South Tacoma, WA 98402

Room 1046

April 25, 2019

4:30 PM

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Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,  
Chris Beale, Robert Thoms, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

#### JOINT MEETING WITH THE PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE Change of Location

#### Call To Order

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

#### Roll Call

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

**Absent:** 1 - Ushka

Pierce County Human Services Committee Members:

**Present:** 2 - Ladenburg, Morell

**Absent:** 3 - Campbell, Richardson, Young

Pierce County Committee Member Richardson arrived at 4:46 p.m.

#### Approval of Agenda

#### Briefing Items

- 3. 19-0434** City of Tacoma's Affordable Housing Action Strategy  
[Daniel Murillo, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 4:39 p.m., Daniel Murillo, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented the City of Tacoma's Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS), including the problem statement; what the AHAS is; development of the AHAS, including the project timeline and data-driven approach; outreach; a snapshot of housing market conditions and needs; data on rental housing supply and demand; and an overview of the Housing Market Policy Dashboard and the AHAS, noting

strategic objectives and supporting actions focus areas, implementation plan, and metrics to monitor and report.

Pierce County Council Member Richardson arrived here, at 4:46 p.m.

Mr. Murillo concluded by providing a summary of the strategic objectives and selected actions, strategic objective by estimated investment and targets, intended outcomes, implementation of the AHAS, and an overview of the Mayoral roundtable on affordability meeting series.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the Housing Market Policy Dashboard.

- 4. [19-0435](#) Pierce County Affordable Housing Revenue Study  
[Jason Escareno, Senior Legislative Analyst, Pierce County]

At approximately 4:51 p.m., Jason Escareno, Senior Legislative Analyst, Pierce County (PC), provided an update on the Pierce County Affordable Housing Revenue study, including background; objectives of the study, noting reviewing effectiveness of the affordable housing incentives in the PC Code, increasing the affordable housing stock, and identifying potential revenue and financing mechanisms that would create affordable housing units in PC consistent with need; what the study will identify; recommending public policy choices to induce the construction of more affordable housing; expenditures; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding funding, the AHAS strategic objectives focus areas, the number of abandoned or derelict properties in Tacoma, the number of properties needed to keep up with the population growth in Tacoma, if the abandoned and derelict homes are occupied or vacant and if they are bank owned or privately owned, and opportunities to get private development investors to flip houses.

- 5. [19-0436](#) City of Tacoma Utilization of Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Funding  
[Vicky McLaurin, Social Wellness Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

This item was presented with Agenda Item No. 6.

- 6. [19-0437](#) 2019 -2020 City-Funded Programs to Address Homelessness in Tacoma  
[Erica Azcueta, Homelessness and Household Stability Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 5:07 p.m., Erica Azcueta, Homelessness and Household Stability Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS),

introduced Vicky McLaurin, Social Wellness Program Manager, NCS, and presented the City funded programs to address homelessness in Tacoma, including contracted services to address homelessness, noting contracted amounts; and contracted services for homeless youth and young adults, noting the young adult overnight shelter at the Beacon Activity Center and the Crisis Residential Center. Ms. Azcueta continued by describing the Therapeutic Mental Health Court; homeless emergency declaration; Homeless Outreach Team (HOT); and 2018-2019 HOT results, including encampment cleanups, TacomaFIRST 311 responses, and referrals. Ms. McLaurin concluded by providing an overview of the mental health/substance use disorder sales tax, including the Revised Code of Washington the City of Tacoma follows; mental health tax funded programs, noting service areas and contracted amounts; programs funded; and historical revenue.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the contracted services for homeless youth and young adults, tracking where the youth or young adults are coming from, status of the Beacon Activity Center feasibility study and how the City Council will engage on it in the next year, if the HOT goes to inactive encampments, what is done with items left at the encampments, and HOT results. Discussion concluded on programs funded, historical revenue, results from the mental health tax, and if the Pierce County Council has discussed exercising their right to use the mental health tax and what their position is on it.

## Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Don Sheppard, The Salvation Army, speaking on City of Tacoma's AHAS.
2. Gerrit Nyland, Catholic Community Services, speaking on City of Tacoma's AHAS and the 2019-2020 City-funded programs to address homelessness in Tacoma.
3. David Puszczewicz, Homeownership Center of Tacoma, speaking on City of Tacoma's AHAS.
4. Mike Lonergan, The Salvation Army, speaking on 2019-2020 City-funded programs to address homelessness in Tacoma.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.



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Keith Blocker, Chair



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Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office