



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

July 13, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Blocker called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 4 - Beale, McCarthy, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:28 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0674](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, provided opening remarks and introduced Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget. Together, they presented updates on homelessness services, including an overview; 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distributions for affordable housing and homelessness, noting allocations to increase emergency shelter capacity, and for encampment response with hygiene and litter services; spending on emergency sheltering, and litter and debris removal; a summary of funding needs, allocations, and other items for consideration; items of immediate need sorted by City Council priority area, noting upcoming presentation dates; the ARPA process moving forward; a timeline and site design for the temporary emergency micro-shelter site at South 69th Street and South Proctor Street; the process to evaluate additional mitigation and stabilization sites, noting the South Proctor Street site, the 8208 Pacific Avenue site, and the 3901 33rd Street Northeast site; transition of the young adult shelter; and a summary.

Discussion ensued regarding status City Council Members' ARPA funding requests, funding disbursement timelines and targets, Standing Committee review, and young adult shelter operators.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:28 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding stabilization sites and encampments in South Tacoma, lessons learned from past projects, safety of homeless individuals, transportation and access for mitigation and stabilization sites in Northeast Tacoma, ways to include those with lived experience in planning and discussion, partnerships and expanded services, impacts on surrounding communities, public support, City communications, addressing encampments Citywide, concerns about camping on Yakima Avenue, public safety, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, and urgency to move forward.

Other Items of Interest

2. [21-0675](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department, presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including confirmation that all requested documents were received from the Pierce County Medical Examiner's Office, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, and Washington State Patrol; the open request for records from the Washington State Attorney General's Office; and the process to hold separate investigations for officers who were charged with a crime from those who were not.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines, information and documents needed to move forward, the internal investigation process, and next steps.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [21-0676](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, July 8, 2021

Linda Stewart, Acting City Manager, stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's agenda, a recognition of Miriam Barnett, CEO, YWCA Pierce County; a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance; and a presentation regarding systems transformation. She further stated that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and noted that tonight's agenda includes a public hearing on the Home in Tacoma Project, as well as Community Forum.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk