



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

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

March 14, 2023

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Briefing Item

1. [23-0252](#) Homeless Services and Strategy Update

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks regarding homelessness response; expressed appreciation for City departments and staff, noting the Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaison (HEAL) Team; and introduced Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager, NCS. Carbone presented updates on the City's homeless services and strategy, including an overview; and inclement weather response, noting the supplies and shelter offered for Tier 1 and Tier 2 weather events, and the types and quantity of additional shelter capacity. Griffith reviewed implementation of Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 8.19 related to use of public property, including notices, compliance, and overall statistics; HEAL Team outreach statistics, noting rates of people accepting services and shelter; emergency, temporary, and safe parking sites; calls to TacomaFIRST 311 and South Sound 911 related to homelessness; HEAL Team staffing levels and hours worked; and enforcement, noting that 100 percent of voluntary compliance was achieved, and that no infractions, fines, or arrests have taken place to date. Carbone concluded by providing a shelter update, including new shelter locations, noting the Brotherhood RISE Freedom Project site, and the Catholic Community Services Holy Rosary safe parking site; an overview of shelter availability by type, size, and anticipated stand down date; the previous, immediate, and short- and long-term actions related to homeless strategy goals and objectives, noting the goals of ensuring affordable housing, providing access services and support, a

shelter system that offers a safe and dignified experience, a continuum of tailored supports, and access to permanent and stable housing; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding new shelter sites; permanent shelter capacity; the HEAL Team, noting appreciation and the time required to get new staff trained and working in the field; TMC Chapter 8.19 implementation, noting data collection, impacts, compliance, and areas cleared to date; procedures for clearing encampments, noting personal items, how requests for cleanup are prioritized, and locations inside and outside the City's buffer areas; types and frequency of calls for service; shelter capacity and services offered by other entities, noting Pierce County and the City of Lakewood; encampments located on state-owned right-of-way and areas outside the City limits; services for youth and young adults; safe parking sites; rates of those who express interest in services, are referred, accept services, or transitioning to permanent supportive housing; methods for reporting and providing updates; temporary shelters, noting expected stand down dates, options to extend service time frames, and reaching out to neighborhoods; and equity, noting expanding options, low-barrier shelter sites, safe parking, and adding new shelters in underrepresented areas.

Other Items of Interest

2. [23-0253](#) Letter to Sound Transit Board of Directors

Mayor Woodards presented a draft letter to the Sound Transit (ST) Board of Directors regarding delays in the ST3 Tacoma Dome Light Rail Extension Project, and requested it be included on tonight's meeting agenda. Deputy Mayor Walker stated she will pass comments along to her fellow ST Board Members, and noted opportunities to provide public comment on the project.

3. [23-0254](#) Council Consideration Request - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023, to be held on May 4, 2023, including the theme of Joy and Action!, goals, session themes, and the proposal to place the resolution on the March 21, 2023, meeting agenda.

4. [23-0257](#) Council Consideration Request - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative

Deputy Mayor Walker presented a CCR to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the Raising Girls non-profit organization's "One Bag Drive" for the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma Public Schools, including background information about the volunteer-run organization, and the proposal to place the resolution on the March 21, 2023, meeting agenda.

5. [23-0255](#) Council Consideration Request - Wheelstops

Council Member Bushnell presented a CCR to allocate \$12,500 of Council Contingency Funds to install wheelstops along South "D" Street, from South 72nd Street to South 74th Street, noting the recent tree planting event, the larger South End Neighborhood Council project, protecting the newly-planted trees, and the proposal to place the resolution on the March 21, 2023, meeting agenda.

5a. [23-0277](#) Council Consideration Request - Asia Pacific Cultural Center's Khmer New Year Event

Council Member Bushnell presented a CCR to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the Asian Pacific Cultural Center's first-annual Khmer New Year celebration, to be held on April 1, 2023, including the proposal to place the resolution on the March 21, 2023, meeting agenda.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [23-0258](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, March 9, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, March 14, 2023, as Tacoma STEAM Network's Pi Day, and the introduction of the 2023 Daffodil Festival Royal Court; no agenda modifications are expected; and that Community Forum will be held during tonight's meeting.

Closed Session - Labor Strategy

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk