



City of Tacoma City Council 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
May 20, 2022
1:00 PM

Special Meeting - City Council Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Mayor Woodards stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the Traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

ROLL CALL

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

WELCOME AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Mayor Woodards welcomed Council Members and staff members and introduced Tanisha Jumper, Director, and Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office. Together, they reviewed the workshop objectives, including finalizing a short list of recommended key objectives by priority area, identifying up to three measures of success in each key objective, and identifying next steps. Colon further reviewed the development process for the City Council priority areas.

BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [22-0595](#) Priority Area 1: Community Safety

At approximately 1:19 p.m., Colon introduced the priority area of community safety, including budgets, noting top programs and departmental budgets; the two objectives to be discussed, to decrease crime and to improve perceptions of safety; and instructions for this discussion, noting that Council Members should decide whether the existing objectives are accurate, suggest new objectives, outline what success would look like for each objective, and prioritize the measures of success.

Discussion ensued regarding measurements related to improving perceptions of public safety, including neighborhood group participation, positive media coverage, community survey results showing people feel safer, reduced gunfire activity, increased engagement, completion of the Citywide community safety plan, faster response times to high-priority calls, increased responses to 9-1-1 calls in general, solving all crimes, decreasing the number of safety complaints received by 3-1-1, more people walking, fewer homeless encampments, fewer people who experience or know someone who has experienced crime, fewer broken windows, and less littering. Discussion continued regarding the measurements related to reducing crime, including changing the language for this objective to replace the term “crime” with “victims of crime”; fewer homicides, property crimes, insurance claims, stolen vehicles, violent crimes, and domestic violence incidents; decreased crime report rates Citywide; fewer gunshots; increased non-emergency interaction between the public and police and fire staff; decreased gun violence; increased mental health response; and connecting more individuals with effective and appropriate services.

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The City Council special meeting recessed at 2:35 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

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2. [22-0596](#) Priority Area 2: Housing and Homelessness

At approximately 2:45 p.m., Colon introduced the priority area of housing and homelessness, including budgets, noting top programs and departmental budgets. Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, provided additional information on budgeting and funding sources. Colon further reviewed the three objectives to be discussed, including having fewer encampments in Tacoma, reducing the negative impacts of encampments, and increasing transitional to stable housing; and instructions for discussion, noting that Council Members should decide whether the existing objectives are accurate, suggest new objectives, outline what success would look like for each objective, and prioritize the measures of success.

Discussion ensued regarding measurements for having fewer encampments, including decreased complaints related to encampments in front of homes and businesses; fewer visible encampments; providing everyone with a stable place to stay; completion of a policy that allows camping only in designated areas; establishment of designated camping areas; increased number and diversity of shelter options; reduced barriers to shelters; increased number

or percentage of people accepting shelter; more positive news coverage related to housing; more partnerships and encouragement that leads to new sanctioned encampments outside the City limits, such as in Pierce County; and having the same number of available shelter beds as there are houseless individuals in the City.

Discussion continued regarding measurements for reducing the negative impacts of encampments, including definitions and realistic goals; decreased complaints of encampments in front of homes and businesses; preventing deaths of houseless individuals; preventing unsanctioned encampments; reduced blight and environmental hazards; less crime surrounding encampments; increased safety, noting fewer emergency calls to unsanctioned encampments; increased mental health response to connect people to appropriate and effective services; reduced code enforcement activity related to houseless individuals; and decreased emergency room visits by houseless individuals.

Discussion continued regarding measurements for increasing transitional to stable housing, including one or more community land trusts, more units of permanent supportive housing, more people utilizing services and case management, increased diversity of housing options for those who are the hardest to house, increased number of tiny homes and other long-term shelter options, reduced recidivism rates for people returning to homelessness, more providers in the homeless and housing sectors, and more adequate housing for all who need or are ready for it.

3. [22-0597](#) Priority Areas 3-6: Access, Health, Jobs, and Belief and Trust

This item was not addressed.

NEXT STEPS

Together, Colon and Jumper summarized the topics reviewed so far, and next steps, including when and how the remaining priority areas will be discussed, and the proposal to schedule four Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding feedback on the meeting format, clarifying terminology related to crime, focusing on seniors and young adults in future discussions about housing, options for further review of topics in standing committees, interest in additional COW meetings for full group discussions, new strategies for Council Members to share information with each other about topics they are working on, a request for additional budget information, and appreciation for staff.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk