



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 243

May 25, 2017

4:30 PM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Marty Campbell,
Joe Lonergan, Lauren Walker Lee, Ryan Mello (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Present: 3 - Blocker, Lonergan and Walker Lee

Absent: 1 - Campbell

Briefing Items

1. [17-0537](#) Proposed Code Amendments - Human Rights Commission- Action Item
[Andreta Armstrong, Manager, Office of Equity and Human Rights]

At approximately 4:33 p.m., Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR), stated staff is bringing forward proposed code amendments from the Human Rights Commission and introduced Andreta Armstrong, Human Rights Manager, and Malik Gbenro, Management Analyst. Mr. Gbenro reviewed the recommend changes to Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 1.29, stating changes include formalizing OEHR having responsibility for staffing and supporting the Commission, amending TMC 1.29.160 to grant the City Attorney's Office more flexibility in commencing civil action in fair housing complaints and make language more in alignment with RCW 49.60.340, and amending the administrative rules governing the Commission to remove the notarization requirement for fair housing and employment complaints and more closely align the process to state and federal partners. He noted additional changes regarding language on sexual orientation and gender identity are being considered and reviewed by the City Attorney's Office for enforceability and alignment with state and federal provisions, which will come to the Council for consideration at a later date.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the Hearing Examiner versus the Superior Court in the handling of complaints where reasonable cause is found,

what other agencies do, adding source of income as a protected class in the next amendment coming forward, removing the process barrier of the notarization requirement, and the timeline for civil action.

MOTION: Council Member Lonergan moved to recommend this to the full Council as written.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker Lee.

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

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Lonergan and Walker Lee

Absent: 1 - Campbell

2. [17-0538](#) Closed Captioning Initiative- Action Item
[Lucas Smiraldo, Management Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights Commission on Disabilities]

At approximately 5:03 p.m., Ms. Powers introduced Lucas Smiraldo, Management Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights, and Todd Holloway, Chair of the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities. Mr. Smiraldo stated the Commission is requesting a resolution regarding the display of closed captions on all televisions in public spaces in Tacoma. He provided background information on the history of the Commission and issue, noting closed captioning may be required upon request under the Americans with Disabilities Act. He reviewed the benefits of closed captioning and models from other city and state government entities. Mr. Smiraldo stated the requested resolution would require all screens in publicly accessible areas to have closed captions permanently enabled, or an alternative is to require all screens to enable closed captions upon request, and would require an education and outreach campaign by the Commission and partners, and would continue to use TMC 1.29.060 to manage discrimination complaints. Mr. Holloway discussed partner organizations to assist with outreach and education.

Discussion ensued regarding the options presented and where the burden is placed, questions around blocking information on the screen with the closed captions in some situations, options for businesses such as putting closed captions on some but not all screens, budget for outreach efforts, the need for clarity in the language and request, and the need for further research and outreach before moving this item to the full City Council.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [17-0539](#) July 13, 2017 - Tacoma Fire Department Mid-Year Review

David Nash-Mendez, Committee Liaison, the next meeting that currently has a topic scheduled is July 13, 2017 and there are no scheduled items for June 8 and 22, 2017 at this time. He stated Will Suarez, the new Management Fellow, will be the new liaison for the Community Vitality and Safety Committee starting June 8, 2017.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Keith Blocker, Chair

Doris Sorum, City Clerk's Office