



# City of Tacoma Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 823 7010 6303

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/82370106303](http://www.zoom.us/j/82370106303) Passcode: 614650

**August 26, 2021**

**4:30 PM**

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Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker,  
Chris Beale, John Hines, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Beale

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [21-0833](#) Approval of the minutes for the May 13, 2021 meeting
2. [21-0834](#) Approval of the minutes for the June 10, 2021 meeting

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021, and June 10, 2021, meetings.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Beale

## Briefing Items

3. [21-0835](#) Language Access  
[Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Coordinator, Media and Communications Office; Perla Gamboa, Commissioner; Sandra Sych, Vice Chair; Alma Vargas, Commissioner, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; Raeshawna Ware, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights]  
  
At approximately 4:38 p.m., Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Coordinator, Media and Communications Office (MCO); Perla Gamboa, Commissioner, Sandra Sych, Vice Chair, and Alma Vargas, Commissioner, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA); and Raeshawna Ware, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights, presented on language access, including an overview, background information, issues, MCO outreach and findings, language access plan, recommendations, next steps, building relationships and trust, and the need to update Tacoma's language access over time to reflect the ever-changing immigrant and refugee populations.  
  
Discussion ensued regarding appreciation of staff for their work, a request to see a draft language access policy, staff recommendations, future budget requests, compensating employees who utilize language skills at work, previous budget approval for a language access coordinator position, future CIRA presentations, building trust with residents, the language access plan, looking at language access more broadly than before, accommodating and celebrating the Lushootseed language, providing multiple language signage, equity and inclusion, reviewing other governments' best practices, and how to move forward with recommendations for the full City Council.
4. [21-0837](#) Community's Police Advisory Committee Update  
[Bucoda Warren, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Media and Communications Office; Stephen Hagberg, Chair, Tacoma Community's Police Advisory Committee]  
  
At approximately 5:28 p.m., Bucoda Warren, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, MCO; and Stephen Hagberg, Chair, Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC), provided an update on CPAC, including an overview; the 21st Century Policing (21CP) recommendation document, noting CPAC review and comments; the status of use of force policy review; the Community Trauma Response Team initiative and conclusion, noting the 2016 petition by The Conversation, and CPAC recommendations; updating the City Council on CPAC oversight recommendations, noting the three major types of oversight, short-term CPAC recommendations, the four levels of Tacoma Police Department complaints, and CPAC community engagement

and outreach; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding cancelling the November 11, 2021, meeting, 21CP recommendations and CPAC comments, the oversight model, gratitude for the clearly stated opinions of CPAC, community reconciliation, CPAC outreach events, CPAC recommendations for CPAC member appointments, CPAC and Community Vitality and Safety Committee (CVS) having similar interests, and CPAC potentially incubating a non-profit organization.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5.     [21-0836](#)     September 9, 2021 - House Bill 1590  
                                  September 23, 2021 - Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs  
  Annual Workplan

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on September 9, 2021, and will include a presentation on Washington House Bill 1590; and the September 23, 2021, meeting will include a presentation on the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs annual work plan.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification on what police transformation topics are coming to future Committee meetings.

## Other Items of Interest

Chair Ushka suggested looking at the committees, boards, and commissions under CVS and assigning a Committee Member to act as a liaison with each.

## Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Diana Parra, speaking on language access.

Discussion ensued regarding the City of Tacoma's rental assistance dispersal, and Pierce County rental assistance funding.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



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Catherine Ushka, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office