



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

August 30, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ushka

Briefing Item

1. [22-0956](#) Tacoma Housing Authority Community Impacts and Program Updates

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks regarding the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA), and introduced April Black, Executive Director, THA. Black presented updates on THA's community impacts and programs, including THA's vision and mission. She further outlined THA's lines of business, including assisting renters in the private rental market; owning and managing housing and real estate; helping develop or finance housing for other Tacoma and Pierce County organizations that share THA's mission, noting Cascade Park Vista and Guadalupe Vista; developing housing and real estate, noting The Rise at 19th, Arlington Apartments, and Housing Hilltop; buying existing property to make it affordable and available to voucher holders; and providing or arranging supportive services for customers. She continued by reviewing the importance of community partners, noting appreciation for the City Council and City staff; community investments, noting housing subsidies; and the people and households served, noting examples those who need affordable housing. She concluded by outlining ways to expand THA's role in creating more affordable housing options, noting various activities and projects; and ways to expand THA's role in housing stability and anti-displacement, noting keeping people housed, and remaining competitive so subsidized households can find housing.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the Hillside 1500 project; increased

rental costs; microunits; housing vouchers, noting waitlists, payment standards, the tenant's responsibility toward rent, and unused vouchers; the high number of people who have vouchers but cannot find housing; the process to transition off the voucher program to paying rent independently; how THA is adjusting to increased costs and planning for the future; rental rates for new units being developed through the City's Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption Program; how payment standards are determined; American Rescue Plan Act funding; appreciation for THA staff and leadership; income requirements; barriers to those seeking housing; supportive services, noting workforce development; partnerships; the role of THA project contractors, noting the importance of recruiting in Tacoma and supporting local businesses; services for families with children, noting appropriate housing sizes and number of units needed; City support to help THA locate available buildings, secure new funding, and apply for grants; and a request for THA to provide further updates in January 2023.

Other Items of Interest

Mayor Woodards stated that she has drafted a letter of support for MultiCare's application to transfer licensure of MultiCare General Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and intermediate care nursery beds to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, for the purpose of streamlining services and improving care, planning, and administration; and noted that Mary Bridge Children's Hospital is the neonatal referral center for our region. She requested that Council Members notify staff if they want to sign on to the letter, and if needed, she will bring the letter forward as an action item at tonight's meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [22-0957](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, August 25, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, recognizing the Safe Youth Campaign; and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ushka

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

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

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk