



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

October 18, 2022

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. [22-1144](#) Proposed Budget Updates - Neighborhood and Community Services and Tacoma Fire Department

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented proposed budget updates for NCS, including an agenda; departmental overview, noting an organizational chart; and financials and personnel, noting departmental funding, COVID-19 funding, cost categories, and a breakdown of external services and other expenses. She continued by providing an overview of the NCS strategy, including major accomplishments from 2021-2022; issues and considerations for 2023-2024, noting homelessness, code compliance, community wellness, and projected homeless response system capacity; and strategy and goals for 2023-2024, noting homelessness, code compliance, community wellness, and resource allocation and management. She further detailed the resource allocation process for 2023-2024, including sustained funding, the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (MHSUD) sales tax funding, and the General Fund. Griffith concluded by outlining major initiatives and proposals for 2023-2024, including homelessness, noting access and support services, and safe and dignified shelter; code compliance; community wellness; and resource allocation and management.

Discussion ensued regarding how information is presented to the

community; external investments; grant funds for youth and young adult violence reduction; MHSUD sales tax funding; shelter and permanent supportive housing capacity and goals; one-time versus continued funding resources; staff capacity and accomplishments; equity in areas where services are being focused; providing economic opportunities; goals and values; appreciation for staff; on-time completion of 311 calls; private property encampment abatement; permanent shelter services; Pierce County's role and investments; a suggestion for future updates to the Community, Vitality, and Safety Committee; impacts of increased services on 311 and 911 calls; opportunities for innovation; cost of expanding services; safe parking; micro-shelters and other alternate sites; Council Contingency Funds; partner agencies; temporary and inclement weather shelters; workforce development and training; code compliance assistance for the elderly or disabled; focusing on the chronically homeless; and the City's models and definitions for those exiting shelter.

Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), presented proposed budget updates for TFD, including an agenda; a departmental overview, noting an organizational chart; deployment of fire stations and facilities; response resources, noting first and secondary response units; initial resource needs, noting residential fire and emergency medical services (EMS) response; and time as a key factor in effective response. He continued by outlining the TFD financials and personnel, including department funding and expenditures, and major accomplishments for 2021-2022. He then reviewed issues and considerations, including 2021 dispatched incidents, noting the number of incidents per first responding company, and by engine or ladder unit; operations positions, noting minimum staffing levels and open positions; status of the fire fleet; strategy and goals for 2023-2024; impacts of the Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant; and a proposal for an EMS levy lid lift on the April 2023 ballot. Chief Green concluded by presenting the TFD budget proposals, including fire fleet replacement, adjusting EMS staffing, mental health services expansion, on-site renewable diesel conversions, and the behavioral health response unit pilot.

Discussion ensued regarding the impact and importance of public safety services; staffing, noting budget, recruitment, retention, and incentives; behavioral health response, noting funding, other cities' models, implementing and expanding the program, de-escalation training, alternative response, and funding sources; supporting the mental health needs of fire fighters, noting post-traumatic stress and the TFD's documentary film, "The Call We Carry"; fire alarms; fire engines and stations, noting locations and opportunities to add more; planning for increased population and density across Tacoma; equity and disparities where services are needed; the EMS levy lid lift, noting

timing and Council Member support; the donation of a surplus ambulance to Tacoma’s Sister City of Brovary, Ukraine; appreciation for staff; SAFER grant funding levels; the City’s legislative agenda; and City Council priorities.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 2. [22-1145](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 13, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming October 17-23, 2022, as Estate Planning Awareness Week, and proclaiming October 2022 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and that no changes are expected to tonight’s agenda.

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Mayor Woodards stated that the Committee of the Whole special meeting will begin at 3:15 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk