



# 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](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569  
**August 23, 2022**  
**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 3 - Bushnell, Daniels and Diaz

Council Members Bushnell and Diaz arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:03 p.m.

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Council Members Bushnell and Diaz arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

### Briefing Item

1. [22-0939](#) Growing Resilience Program Update

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Dona Ponepinto, President and CEO, United Way of Pierce County (UWPC) provided opening remarks regarding the Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT) program.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:03 p.m.

Ponepinto introduced Abigail Lawson, Program Director for GRIT, and Dr. Jarrett Brunny, Vice President of Community Impact, UWPC. Lawson presented on the GRIT program, including participants, noting that all are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE), single income earner households with children, who reside in specific zip codes; recipient demographics; other programming information, noting funds disbursed, invitations for participants to engage in surveys and interviews, the offboarding process and timeline, benefits counseling, and modeling a continuation of the program; work to change narratives about financial safety nets and guaranteed income; advocacy efforts; and example stories from

participants. Brunny concluded by expressing appreciation for steering committee members, partner agencies, and donors.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; the focus on ALICE families; Tacoma's role as a leader in guaranteed income programs, noting national recognition and requests from other cities to help set up their programs; the final report format and future presentations; how the City Council can support ongoing work; changing perceptions about unconditional support, noting stigma, guilt, communicating facts, and sharing individuals' stories; impacts of poverty on health and well-being; additional studies and data gathering, noting qualitative data, crime statistics, interviews, and reassessments; possibility of expanding the program; the importance of donations and volunteers; providing stability and reducing barriers; state and federal level advocacy; ensuring guaranteed income does not conflict with other benefits programs; funding sources; reducing displacement; supporting child care programs; and recognizing that poverty is a systemic, and not a personal, failure.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [22-0940](#) Council Consideration Request - Hilltop Street Fair

This item was addressed later in the study session.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [22-0941](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, August 18, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, for a presentation recognizing Tacoma as a Stars and Stripes City, and that no changes are expected. She concluded by stating that Virtual Forum will be held after the regular meeting.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [22-0940](#) Council Consideration Request - Hilltop Street Fair

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support entertainment and arts programming at the seventh annual Hilltop Street Fair. He further invited everyone to attend the Hilltop Street Fair on August 27, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Martin Luther King Jr. Way from South 9th Street to South 14th Street and at People's Park.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk