



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

August 10, 2021

12:00 PM

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 16

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:25 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Council Members Hunter and Thoms participated virtually.

Briefing Items

There were no briefing items.

Other Items of Interest

1. [21-0767](#) MultiCare Mary Bridge Children's Hospital Letter of Support

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for a letter to the Washington State Department of Health in support of a Certificate of Need application for replacement of the MultiCare Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, noting the need for a new pediatric hospital building, the hospital's request, and a request for Council Member support.

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved for the full City Council to sign the letter to the Washington State Department of Health in support of a Certificate of Need application for replacement of the MultiCare Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital in Tacoma.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.

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

Ayes: 6 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, McCarthy and Thoms

- 2. [21-0768](#) Council Consideration Request - Box Fan Filter Program Expansion

Council Member Beale presented a CCR to allocate \$32,407.91 of City Council Contingency Funds to support expansion of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency program to distribute box fan filters to seniors, noting air quality and wildfire smoke.

Discussion ensued regarding additional Council Member sponsors, the process and timeline for distributing filters, and the CCR budget.

- 3. [21-0769](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Fred Scruggs, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including completion of all twelve officer witness interviews, preparations to provide notice and interview the involved officers, and contact with the Washington State Attorney General’s Office (AGO) regarding the status of the City’s request for records.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the officer witnesses were interviewed as part of other agencies’ investigations.

- 3a. [21-0787](#) Arsons in Tacoma

Charles Taylor, Assistant Chief, TPD, presented an update on arsons in Tacoma, including an overview; statistics; and current status of the TPD response, noting surveillance, suspects, and arrests.

Discussion ensued regarding communication with businesses in the

Downtown Tacoma area; legal consequences of arson; vehicle fires; appreciation for staff; arsons occurring near homeless encampments; and a request for staff to present information on impacts of Washington State legislation related to transformation, noting options for police to take action, changes to probable cause and reasonable cause, and other changes to policies or requirements.

- 3b. [21-0788](#) Letter to the Washington State Legislative Delegation regarding clarification on police transformation legislation

Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office, presented a proposed letter to the Washington State Legislative Delegation regarding clarification on police transformation legislation, noting support, the variety of interpretations across the State, the need for an advisory opinion from the Washington State AGO while model policies are developed, requests by other entities, and next steps.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved for the full City Council to sign the letter to the Washington State Legislative Delegation regarding clarification on police transformation legislation.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

Discussion continued regarding interest from other municipalities, Pierce County, and the Association of Washington Cities; how legislation and policies will be carried out; and Council Members' support for the letter.

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

Ayes: 6 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, McCarthy and Thoms

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [21-0770](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, August 5, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's agenda, a Compassionate Tacoma recognition of the Niagara Bottling Company and the Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, and a

systems transformation update; that Community Forum will be held during tonight's meeting; and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda. She further announced that cooling centers will be opened starting Wednesday, August 11, 2021, until August 14, 2021, and staff are making sure water is available at the City's stability site and shelters.

Discussion ensued regarding a request for additional discussion of temporary homeless encampments, collaboration with advocacy groups, how volunteers can work with the City to help distribute resources, and cooling center locations.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 6 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 1:15 p.m.

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:15 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 1:45 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk