



# 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  
**March 29, 2022**  
**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:06 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

### Briefing Items

1. [22-0373](#) Speed Exhibitions

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Ed Wade, Deputy Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented information on speed exhibitions, including an overview of street racing issues, noting an example of a recent street racing incident; the TPD Criminal Investigations Division's partnerships to address street racing; racial equity and data collection; top locations for street racing; statistics related to calls for service; partner agencies in the Street Racing Task Force; the City's unlawful exhibition of speed ordinance, noting the effective date of April 12, 2021, and the number of individuals charged so far; and TPD's strategies to address street racing.

Discussion ensued regarding special emphasis patrols; TPD response methods, priorities, and impacts on response times for calls for service; the difference between charges for speed exhibitions and reckless driving; investigating vehicles involved in street racing; methods to discourage street racing, noting vehicle impounds, criminal charges, charging spectators, and juvenile enforcement; a reminder that residents should always call emergency dispatch to report incidents; when TPD officers are authorized to pursue vehicles; complaints and frustration expressed by the community; increased violent crime rates; a request for data on bystander injuries; options to investigate individuals who post street racing videos on social media; improving safety in intersections, noting pedestrian safety, installing plates in the roadway, temporary roundabouts, and video cameras; avoiding

situations where an officer would be surrounded by a crowd; and ideas for legislation at the local and state levels.

## Other Items of Interest

### 3. [22-0386](#) Council Consideration Request - Street Racing Spectators

Council Member Rumbaugh provided opening remarks about proposed legislation related to street racing spectators, and introduced Lynda Foster, Council Assistant, City Manager's Office. Ms. Foster presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance amending Chapter 11.05 of the Tacoma Municipal Code to add a new section prohibiting attendance at unlawful exhibitions of speed, including wording in the ordinance, and similar language already in use by other agencies. Council Member Rumbaugh outlined the background for the request, including impacts and incidents across the City, the regional response, how spectators encourage street racing, impacts of similar ordinances in other cities, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Member support; possible impacts of the ordinance; options for criminal charges, fines, and sentencing; whether the new law will make TPD response more difficult and complex; concerns about impacts on youth, noting fines, detention, and having a criminal record; a suggestion for additional wording related to impounding vehicles; the goal of deterrence rather than incarceration; concerns about safety and violence during these illegal events, noting dangerous behavior and frustration of community members; a request to invite the City of Kent's Police Chief to present on their ordinance; a request for additional information, including suggestions from staff about additional measures, diversion programs for juveniles, and data on charging related to race; a suggestion to add language to the ordinance related to reporting and enforcement data; TPD staffing; and timing to bring the ordinance forward for consideration.

## Briefing Items - continued

### 2. [22-0374](#) Community Survey Results

At approximately 1:49 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, provided opening remarks about the community survey for the 2023-2024 biennial budget, including the purpose, random sampling format, history of surveys since the early 2000s, details available in the full survey, and how this year's survey differs from past years; and introduced Chris Bandak, Executive Vice President, and Simon Webb,

Consultant, MDB Insight. Mr. Bandak presented the survey final report, including an agenda; overview; methodology, noting how results were weighted based on census data; response rates; background context, noting a national trend of decreased satisfaction levels with various aspects of life and government; and key findings, noting overall quality of life and satisfaction, community priorities for improvement, major issues facing Tacoma in the next ten years, the City’s role in major issues, crime and public safety, social services needed, and participation in events and civic life.

Discussion ensued regarding alternate survey response options, noting by text or online; survey methods; census data; low response rates for people aged 18-34 years; offering surveys in more languages; demographics related to response rates by Council District, race, and ethnicity; increasing outreach; the benefits of using a third party for these surveys; the trends of decreased community satisfaction; and how the City can make an impact.

**Other Items of Interest - continued**

- 3. [22-0386](#) Council Consideration Request - Street Racing Spectators

This item was addressed earlier in the study session.

**Committee Reports**

Mayor Woodards provided an update on the Tideflats Steering Committee, including the Committee's recent meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022, to review map options and amendments presented by BERK Consulting; that four maps were forwarded to the Planning Commission (PC) for the State Environmental Policy Act scoping process; the request that the Tideflats Advisory Group review and provide their comments as part of the PC process; and next steps for the PC. She also expressed appreciation for the Steering Committee partners, including the City of Fife, Pierce County, the Port of Tacoma, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the members of the Tideflats Advisory Group.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Members' roles and opportunities to get involved, timing for City Council consideration, the robust public process and upcoming opportunities for community engagement, and the Planning Commission's role and possible actions.

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Deputy Mayor Ushka stated that the Community Vitality and Safety Committee has completed review of camping ordinance options, and she will transmit a report to the full City Council for discussion next week.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [22-0382](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, March 24, 2022

City Attorney Bill Fosbre stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, March 29, 2022, as Active People, Healthy Nation Day, and introducing the 2022 Daffodil Festival Royal Court; and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk