



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**November 30, 2021**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Beale and McCarthy

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:15 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [21-1170](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 12:04 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), introduced Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, NCS; and provided opening remarks regarding the City's response to homelessness, including recognition by the National League of Cities (NLC) for City staff's efforts; NLC's invitation for City staff to participate on a panel discussion on Wednesday, November 17, 2021; and the City's partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to provide a 24-hour COVID-19 isolation site at the Lighthouse Activity Center.

Together, Ms. Stewart and Ms. Griffith presented an update on the City's homelessness efforts, including an overview; the Rental Assistance program, noting households served, funds distributed, and information available online from Pierce County; proposed Ordinance No. 28756, related to camping and unlawful use of public property, noting review by the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, a virtual community meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021, and discussion at the Tuesday, December 14, 2021, study session; and steps to address garbage and debris.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:15 p.m.

Ms. Stewart and Ms. Griffith further reviewed the status of temporary, emergency, and permanent shelters; efforts to increase shelter capacity, noting that new locations will add 180 shelter beds by the end of 2021; development of the City's homeless strategy, noting progress, vision, mission, values, and goals; and aligning resources with priorities.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; working with the NLC to find new strategies; options for providing supplies to encampments to proactively handle garbage and debris, noting the Purple Bag Project; youth participation under the new service contract for the Beacon Activity Center; stakeholders and additional groups staff should contact; frustration expressed by community members; increased crime and possible connections to homeless encampments; the new hotel site at South Hosmer Street, noting safety and security measures for existing residents and those using the site; opportunities for community members to volunteer and provide support; warming shelters; past and future encampment cleanup efforts; staff responsiveness to community concerns; shelter bed capacity and vacancy rates, noting a request to track the number of people who accept or decline shelter; negative impacts on business owners and residents; impacts of NCS and Tacoma Police Department (TPD) staff vacancies and recruitment challenges; the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative; involving other City departments; options for a ban on camping on public property; demographics of people experiencing homelessness; and coordinating with the Washington State Department of Transportation to resolve issues on their properties.

2. [21-0796](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 1:32 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented an update on systems transformation, including gratitude for and recognition of the City's transformation efforts, noting large and small projects across the City; work done by the City Council; community participation; the Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team; committees, boards, and commissions; the transformation leadership and facilitation teams; internal services; Citywide program managers and leadership; and information available on the City website at [cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://cityoftacoma.org/transform).

## Other Items of Interest

3. [21-1173](#) Council Consideration Request - Sidewalk Protections

Council Member Ushka presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance revising Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 9.16, regarding streets

and sidewalks, including the purpose to prevent obstruction and damage to sidewalks from the loading, unloading, and transport of goods; amendments to the penalty provision; and a request for Council Member support.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the proposed ordinance.

4. [21-1171](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Ed Wade, Assistant Chief, TPD, presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including completion of the sufficiency review process for the two charged officers, his work to provide recommendations to the Interim Chief, and work done by Internal Affairs to review and summarize the investigations for the remaining three officers.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [21-1172](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 24, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there will be one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, recognizing Tom Pierson, CEO, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber; and that a motion is expected to continue Ordinance No. 28793, regarding the Home in Tacoma Project, to the December 7, 2021, meeting, including any amendments that may be made during the December 1, 2021, special meeting. She further stated that tonight's agenda includes public hearings on proposed amendments to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan, and to designate additional areas of the City as residential target areas.

Discussion ensued regarding a request for an update on street racing, including incident rates, impacts of the City's legislation, regional efforts, and dealing with businesses that host illegal racing events.

## Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee

**MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.**

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

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

**Absent:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Thoms

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:00 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded at 3:04 p.m.

The study session recessed at 3:04 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 3:33 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk