



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
June 28, 2022
12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Bushnell, Daniels, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 3 - Blocker, Hines and Walker

Council Member Blocker arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Mayor Woodards participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0722](#) Therapeutic Courts

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Deputy Mayor Ushka introduced Drew Henke, Judge, Tacoma Municipal Court.

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

Judge Henke presented information on the Tacoma Municipal Court's goal to set up therapeutic courts, including a mission statement; purpose of therapeutic courts; Tacoma's history of dealing with defendants with mental health issues; the standard for competency to stand trial, noting issues before September 2015 that led to a dedicated mental health calendar; development of a second mental health calendar in 2018, noting services for intake, jail transition services, staff coordination meetings, and site visits to other cities; impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; current status; future goals, noting grant funds and a new Therapeutic Court Coordinator position; evidence-based practices; and the therapeutic court process. She continued by introducing members of the team, including Michelle Petrich, Court Administrator, and Andrea Currin, Court Operations Supervisor, Tacoma Municipal Court; Erik Furer, Prosecuting Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Monique Blanco,

Defense Attorney, Pierce County Misdemeanor Division; Bailey Meade, Mental Health Professional and Social Worker, Catholic Community Services; and James Miller, Jail Transition Services Case Manager, Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare. Miller and Meade concluded by sharing stories of how the mental health calendar and therapeutic court model has helped individuals.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and partner organizations, how people enter the criminal justice system and find services, the community court model, data collection focused on recidivism and equity, challenges of finding adequate services and facilities, impacts of housing instability, ensuring the City applies for and is competitive for federal funds, budget considerations, other methods to connect people to services outside of the criminal justice system, coordinated re-entry programs, essential staff, gathering data from other cities and Pierce County, and a request for a future presentation to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee to provide updates.

2. [22-0723](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 12:51 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks and presented an update on homeless services, including an overview, NCS program staffing, public property encampment removals, the private property encampment abatement pilot program, and services during inclement weather. Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager, NCS, presented the City's homeless strategy, noting housing, and shelter and service access; current shelter status; shelter and outreach goals; the outreach system; shelter work that is underway, noting property at South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue which will initially be used for a mitigation site shelter, and later be developed for affordable housing; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness; the South 35th Street site, noting the plan for Tacoma Rescue Mission to provide clothes washing services, and how the tent site will operate; safe parking; presenting positive success stories; partnerships for water distribution during high heat events; the mitigation site at South 82nd Street and Pacific Avenue; providing assistance to private property owners; data and survey responses, noting the types of shelter people want, Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, and

budget considerations; updates on the homeless strategy; and outreach, noting community events, available information, and how Council Members can help.

Other Items of Interest

3. [22-0724](#) Council Contingency Request - Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference Sponsorship

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$6,500 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference in Tacoma on August 4-6, 2022, including the purpose of the project and conference, and positive impacts for attendees and the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of learning from and sharing with other cities.

- 3a. [22-0736](#) Council Contingency Request - Safe Youth Campaign

Council Member Daniels presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$35,000 of Council Contingency Funds to fund the partial costs to develop and implement an eight-week Safe Youth Awareness Campaign beginning July 2022, including phases for the initiative; partnership with the Foundation for Tacoma Students, Seeds of Peace, Greentrike, eTc Tacoma, Bamford Foundation, Goodfellas Barbershop, and others; campaign details and budget; and the proposal to add this item as a resolution on tonight's meeting agenda. Council Member Rumbaugh further explained how the idea for this campaign developed from the City Council's discussions about street racing and finding positive activities for youth.

Discussion ensued regarding the intent of the campaign to provide information and outreach about existing programs, rather than create a new program; the importance of youth engagement, empowerment, peer support, and mentorship; the role of Foundation for Tacoma Students to gather and distribute funding; the request to take action at tonight's meeting; previous campaigns; recent violent crime in the community; and leveraging donations.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [22-0727](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 23, 2022

Interim Deputy City Manager Kurtis Kingsolver stated that there is a ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming July 2022 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, and a demonstration of the TacomaFIRST 311 SeeClickFix migration. He further stated that several changes may be considered at tonight's meeting, including a proposed Substitute Resolution No. 40985, regarding the work plan for the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District; an amendment to Amended Ordinance No. 28819, regarding the NewCold land use designation application; and a motion to add Resolution No. 40995, regarding the Safe Youth Awareness Campaign. He concluded by reminding everyone that Virtual Forum will be held after tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk