



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**December 19, 2023**

**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 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 3 - Blocker, Bushnell and Ushka

Council Member Blocker arrived at 12:05 p.m.

### Briefing Items

#### 1. [23-1237](#) Alternative Response Quarterly Update

At approximately 12:01 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli, provided a brief background on the alternative response quarterly update, current response methods, alternative response focus areas, future response methods, and response spectrum, and introduced Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS).

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

Griffith presented an overview on the expanded Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaison (HEAL) Team; 2023 fourth quarter updates; services the HEAL Team utilizes, noting the Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement (HOPE) Team. Mary Hallman, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), introduced Aleesia Morales and Cassie Hallstone, HOPE Team Co-Managers. Together, Morales and Hallstone presented the project overview for establishing the HOPE Team; launch update, noting phases; staffing update; how HOPE can help, noting the maintenance of up-to-date resources based on a person's needs and wants for support or services; community collaboration and data collection; response outcomes for the first 75 days, noting 147 total calls or 16 percent were diverted from emergency departments and jails; and examples of services and outcomes. Avery Moore, Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), introduced Paul Junger, Deputy Chief, TPD. Junger presented on implementation of Community Service

Officers (CSO), including team structure and role; and CSO updates, noting interviews and training. City Manager Elizabeth Pauli concluded with a review of the timeline, noting the next quarterly update is scheduled for the March 19, 2024, study session.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the multi-department collaboration; data on why services are accepted or not; value of working and partnering across agencies; plans for expanded hours and staff; CSO training development; need for staffing study, noting the business service analyst position; data collection including diverted calls and age range of callers; process to get fully staffed while keeping diversity; tracking on initial encounters and touch points; flagging gaps in services that are not available in the City; the City's role in assessment and tracking of services being requested outside of program hours; CSO applicant criteria and standards; crisis stabilization unit, noting voluntary versus involuntary; coverage of all municipalities; and impacts of calling the HOPE Team directly without TPD and TFD responding first.

2. [23-1238](#) Homeless Services and Strategy Update

At approximately 1:32 p.m., Griffith provided opening remarks on the homeless services and strategy update, and introduced Caleb Carbone and Javon Carlisle, Principal Community Resource Analysts, NCS. Together, Carbone and Carlisle provided background, noting appreciation for staff; partnerships and shelter providers; overview; inclement weather response; implementation of Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) 8.19 related to areas where camping and storage is prohibited, noting the update of debris and encampment removal and outreach statistics; reasons for service refusal; capacity of emergency, temporary, and safe parking beds; 311 requests related to homelessness, including in prohibited and non-prohibited areas; South Sound 911 safety statistics; staffing levels of the HEAL Team; enforcement of TMC 8.19; racial and ethnic demographics, noting outreach breakdown; and updates on shelters. They concluded with the homeless strategy, including objectives to ensure affordable housing, access to services and support, a shelter system that offers a safe and dignified experience, continuum of tailored supports, and access to permanent and stable housing.

Discussion ensued regarding ongoing work, noting the food access program; youth and young adult support; total number of encampments in the City; shelter site updates, including Aspen Court and Holy Rosary; re-housing deadlines; City goals; standing down shelters, noting the impact to BIPOC population; percentage of individuals not wanting to leave their structures and how to help; racial disparities; food services outside of shelters; illegal dumping; shelter bans; and appreciation for staff.

3. [23-1239](#) Tacoma Police Department Crime Dashboard

At approximately 2:50 p.m., Crystal Young-Haskins, Assistant Chief, TPD, provided background on the TPD Crime Dashboard, gave appreciation for the various departments that helped create the Dashboard, and presented the goals and objectives. Gretchen Aguirre, Captain, TPD, reviewed the 63rd recommendation from the 21st Century Policing assessment for TPD to engage in a comprehensive technology assessment and development of a roadmap; and Crime Dashboard timeline. Jackie Shelton, Senior Crime Analyst, TPD, continued with the data available on the Crime Dashboard, noting that domestic violence, sexual offenses, and abuse will be removed from the Dashboard to protect privacy. Enzhou Wang, Assistant Director, Information Technology, concluded with the technology programs powering the Dashboard, success factors, and presented a video prepared by TPD with a tutorial on how to use the Dashboard.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for having this available to the residents, broader goals, collection of data to drive decisions, and appreciation for the video.

## Other Items of Interest

4. [23-1240](#) Letter to the Charter Review Committee Regarding City Council Recommendations for Charter Review Consideration

Mayor Woodards presented a draft letter to the Charter Review Committee (CRC) from the Council thanking them for their invaluable service and identifying the several topics of particular interest the Council would like the CRC to discuss.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for an alternate member position.

4a. [23-1252](#) Port Letter to Delegation

Mayor Woodards presented a letter to support the on-time completion of the Puget Sound Gateway, composed of State Routes 167 and 509 which have been a priority for King and Pierce County residents for decades and was the keystone to Connecting Washington and Move Ahead Washington transportation funding packages. She concluded by stating the Gateway is an essential mobility project that finishes a key component of the region's highway network, and the proposed letter will appear on tonight's Council meeting agenda for consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding edits to the letter.

**4b. [23-1253](#)** Letters on Kia / Hyundai

Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks on two letters she will be sending regarding the situation with Kia and Hyundai to the federal delegation to support a request for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue a recall on 2011-2021 Kia models and 2015-2021 Hyundai models, and a second letter to the manufacturers and local dealerships to partner and host an event to receive upgrades to the anti-theft software. She concluded by stating the letters will come to the full Council after the first of the year.

Discussion ensued regarding the City of Seattle's letter, noting the similarity; manufacturers paying for upgrades; and next steps.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

**5. [23-1241](#)** Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 14, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, and two changes are expected to tonight's agenda, the addition of the Puget Sound Gateway letter and a settlement motion.

## Executive Session - Pending Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

The City Council convened to executive session at 3:23 p.m.  
Interim City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened,  
at 3:35 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



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Nicole Emery, City Clerk