



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

July 25, 2019

4:30 PM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,
Chris Beale, Robert Thoms, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Present: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

Approval of Minutes

1. [19-0763](#) Approval of the minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

Briefing Items

2. [19-0764](#) Homelessness Program Update
[Erica Azcueta, Homelessness and Household Stability Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:31 p.m., Erica Azcueta, Homelessness and Household Stability Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented an overview of the homelessness programs, including background information regarding homeless program funding, noting the youth and young adult program, Stability Site operations,

and contracted services; housing program initiatives, noting the Affordable Housing Action Strategy, the Mayor's Roundtable on Housing Affordability, and the Mental Health Court; and mitigating impacts through the Mental Health Court and encampment response, noting the Washington State Department of Corrections, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Port of Tacoma, and Tacoma Metro Parks. Ms. Azcueta concluded by reviewing how the City addresses root causes of homelessness, including the Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) initiative.

Discussion ensued regarding the Mental Health Court, WSDOT partnership, how priority locations were determined, affordable housing, encampment cleanups, mitigating impacts, encampment responses, how community dialog regarding homelessness has changed, Tacoma's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), code updates regarding structures in park property, and Port of Tacoma partnership.

3. [19-0765](#) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Funding
[Vicky McLaurin, Social Wellness Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:50 p.m., Ms. Azcueta made opening remarks and introduced Vicky McLaurin, Social Wellness Program Manager, NCS. Ms. McLaurin presented an overview of the mental health tax and the expected mental health tax revenue for 2019 and 2020. Ms. Azcueta outlined the programs that are funded through the mental health and substance use disorder tax and the contracted amount for each program. Ms. McLaurin reviewed the program performance outputs regarding the number of clients served in 2018 and the projected number for 2019, and stated the drastic differences to housing services, health, and health care are caused by changes to the programs. Ms. Azcueta concluded by reviewing the performance outcomes for the first quarter of 2019.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the outputs for health, health care, and housing services; co-occurring treatment; individuals that obtained permanent housing; treatment services and what the City provides; the funding process; and 911 callers.

4. [19-0770](#) Northwest Detention Center Report
[Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 5:05 p.m., Chair Blocker made opening remarks regarding GEO Group's Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) and stated that the City Manager's office compiled a list of questions raised during the

Community Vitality and Safety Committee meeting on May 9, 2019 and gathered responsive information, including health and quality of life, emergency response, regulatory oversight, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) procedures, historical context, and legal guidance. Chair Blocker introduced Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, City Manager's Office. Ms. Gallagher reviewed the questions and responses regarding health and quality of life issues, noting food quality, healthcare, mental health service, and third-party service providers; emergency response, noting emergency evacuation drills, proportion of guards to detainees, cost estimates for public safety calls, Tacoma Fire Department response plan, Fire Code, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and regulatory oversight, noting the oversight role of ICE and the contract between ICE and the GEO Group. Ms. Gallagher concluded by reviewing ICE procedures, including a timeline of events of the NWDC being built in Tacoma; historical context; and legal guidance, noting amortization and the City's business licensing.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding federal contracts, Council involvement of the authorization of the NWDC being built, inclusive zoning, discrepancies, an ordinance requiring detention facilities to undergo oversight by third-party organizations, legislature request for authority over detention facility standards, regulatory business licenses, and State of Washington business licenses. Discussion continued regarding GEO Group requested food inspections, disease outbreak reporting, evacuations, amortization, Tacoma Police Department (TPD) policies regarding detainees, TPD call cost, inspection reports, and next steps.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Carol Kindt, 5939 North 26th Street.
2. Bill Tudor, Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW).
3. Shauna Hansen, AIDNW.
4. Megan Ybarra, La Resistencia.
5. Maru Mora, La Resistencia.
6. John Carlton, resident.
7. Kathy Lawhon, resident.
8. Christian Lopez, One America.
9. Jefferson Mok, Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
10. Wis Garcia, VT Radio Universal.
11. Krystle Amundson, resident.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [19-0771](#) August 8, 2019 - Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Interviews, Rental Housing Code Update, Public Safety: Street Crime and Opioid Response

August 22, 2019 - State of the Black Community, Low Birthweight and Health Equity, Parks Code Amendments

Linda Stewart, Executive Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on August 8, 2019, and will include interviews for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, a rental housing code update, and a briefing on public safety regarding street crime and opioid response. She further stated the August 22, 2019 meeting will include a briefing on the state of the black community, low birthweight and health equity, and park code amendments; the September 12, 2019 meeting will include updates on Project PEACE, the Neighborhood Council Program, and a closed captioning resolution; and the September 26, 2019 meeting will include an update on the Domestic Violence Strategic Alliance and a report on the receivership pilot for code enforcement. Ms. Stewart concluded by stating the October 10, 2019 meeting will include updates on code compliance and community engagement, and the October 24, 2019 meeting will include food innovation in food deserts.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.


Keith Blocker, Chair


Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office