



# City of Tacoma

## Economic Development

### Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/88227539908](http://www.zoom.us/j/88227539908) Passcode: 614650

**June 13, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair **Keith Blocker**, Vice Chair **Kiara Daniels**, **Joe Bushnell**,  
**Olgy Diaz**, **Sarah Rumbaugh** (alternate)

### Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 4 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels and Diaz

Vice Chair Daniels participated virtually.

### Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

Peter and Ann Darling, speaking on safety concerns for organizations and businesses located in Downtown Tacoma.

### Briefing Items

1. [23-0603](#) Chamber of Commerce Business and Industry Panel - 2023 Business Climate Survey [Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development; Andrea Reay, President, Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce]

At approximately 10:11 a.m., Chair Blocker provided opening remarks regarding the business and industry panel, noting it is a continuation from a panel discussion held at the May 9, 2023, Committee meeting; and expressed appreciation for the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) and the panelists. The panelists introduced themselves, including Andrea Reay, Chamber; Cassandra Williams, Love By The Slice; Isaac Miller, Theory Real Estate; Katherine Raz, The Fernseed; Umi Wagoner, ETC Tacoma; and Justin Everman, McKinley Hill Business Association, and LUX Perpetua Coffee.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding how the city can improve communication; better support for local businesses; how to conduct community outreach; safety for the neighboring businesses; strengthening two-way communication programs; connecting better with people doing business within the City; support for people establishing a business, noting the need for guidance to help small business owners understand requirements and permit language; hurdles with getting a business up and running, noting fees, regulations, business and building costs, and application requirements; support for small and medium sized businesses; the role of the Chamber; addressing homelessness; transit; housing; parking; economic development; collaboration between business owners; impacts of Seattle's economy; submitting complaints; and next steps to address business owners' concerns.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

- [23-0604](#) June 27, 2023 - Federal and State Business Funding Update  
July 11, 2023 - Small Business Technical Assistance Funding Outcomes  
July 25, 2023 - Farmers Market 2022 Annual Report and Business Incubation Impact, Business Improvement Area Expansion Update

D'Angelo Baker, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on June 27, 2023, and will include the Federal and State business funding update; the July 11, 2023, meeting will include a presentation on small business technical assistance funding outcomes; and the July 25, 2023, meeting will include presentations on the farmers market 2022 annual report and business incubation impact, and the Business Improvement Area expansion update.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.



Keith Blocker, Chair



Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office