



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

1660 L Street Northwest, Suite 501

Washington D.C. 20036

**March 13, 2018**

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## SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council conducted a special meeting of the Council beginning at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at various locations in and around Simon and Company, Incorporated, Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs, 1660 L Street Northwest, Suite 501, Washington, D.C. 20036.

**Present:** 7 - Beale, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Blocker and Thoms

## REGULAR AGENDA

Meeting with various federal legislators or their staff to discuss the City of Tacoma's Federal Legislative Priorities as adopted by Resolution No. 39885, and other matters pertaining to the City of Tacoma.

### **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue Southwest  
[Laura Trueman, Principal Deputy Director]

Present: Beale, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Council Members discussed work being undertaken in Tacoma to combat the community's opioid epidemic, including convening a community summit and county-wide task force, submission of a grant application to the National League of Cities Mayor's Institute on Opioids, and community distribution by the Tacoma Fire Department of opioid overdose rescue kits. Council Members also spoke of the need to increase public awareness about prevention and treatment and to expand medication-assisted treatment.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) staff including, Laura Trueman, Principal Deputy Director; Kathryn Bell, Policy Analyst; Darcie Johnston, Special Assistant, Intergovernmental Affairs; and Daniel Barber, Policy and External Affairs Advisor, Opioids, described funding available to help communities address their needs. Ms. Trueman noted that rural areas, such as West Virginia and Indiana, are of particular emphasis. Staff invited Tacoma to help HHS collect data and stories on successful recovery and treatment, and to help them understand the challenges of collecting data.

Office of Representative Adam Smith (WA-9)  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
[Jonathan Pawlow, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director]

Present: Beale, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards made introductory remarks and Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma, including homelessness; affordable housing; funding of Community-Oriented Policing; grants that have helped create safe communities; Tacoma's work to address opioids; the importance of transit funding, such as the Capital Investment Grants for Tacoma Link expansion and the Bus Rapid Transit project; the need for infrastructure funding; and studying foot ferries as an additional transportation mode available to Tacoma.

Jonathan Pawlow, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, shared the Representative's support of Tacoma's priorities.

Senator Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
[Josephine "Jo" Eckert, Senior Policy Advisor]

Present: Beale, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

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Ms. Eckert shared that Senator Murray supports Tacoma's priorities and invited the Council to keep her informed of the interconnections of transportation needed in Tacoma. She also invited them to share with the Senator information on the task force and work it has convened to address opioids.

Senator Maria Cantwell  
SH-511 Hart Senate Office Building  
[Nick Sutter, Legislative Assistant; Ryan Shay, Legislative Aide]

Present: Beale, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

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Senator Cantwell and staff shared their positions on budget management for addressing opioids as a public health issue.

NLC Group Meeting with Senator Patty Murray  
366 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
[Washington State Representatives and Staff]

Present: Beale, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Senator Murray shared her priorities for this year's Congress and took questions from the audience.

Representative Denny Heck  
425 Cannon House Office Building  
[Jami Burgess, Chief of Staff; David Marten, Legislative Assistant]

Present: Beale, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards made introductory remarks and Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma, including homelessness; affordable housing; funding of Community-Oriented

Policing; grants that have helped create safe communities; Tacoma's work to address opioids; the importance of transit funding, such as the Capital Investment Grants for Tacoma Link expansion and the Bus Rapid Transit project; the need for infrastructure funding; and studying foot ferries as an additional transportation mode available to Tacoma. The Council also thanked Representative Heck for his work with New Markets Tax Credits to support the Eastside Community Center.

Jami Burgess, Chief of Staff, and David Marten, Legislative Assistant, shared items that Representative Heck is working on, including a transit-oriented development proposal and a Green Stormwater bill that encourages research and implementation. Ms. Burgess and Mr. Marten shared that Representative Heck supports Tacoma's priorities and will share with the Representative that the City is continuing with Project PEACE and pursuing Opportunity Zone designations.

Representative Derek Kilmer  
1520 Longworth House Office Building  
[Katie Allen, Legislative Assistant]

Present: Beale, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards made introductory remarks and Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma, including homelessness; affordable housing; funding of Community-Oriented Policing; grants that have helped create safe communities; Tacoma's work to address opioids; the importance of transit funding, such as the Capital Investment Grants for Tacoma Link expansion and the Bus Rapid Transit project; the need for infrastructure funding, particularly for dilapidated bridges in the Port of Tacoma area; and studying foot ferries as an additional transportation mode available to Tacoma.

Representative Kilmer asked to please be notified if the City is invited to participate in the National League of Cities Mayor's Institute on Opioids, to help him make a case at the national level for distributing funding to Washington State. He stated Tacoma is the only location in Pierce County where methadone is available for treatment and recovery, and uses its locally levied mental health tax to fund a co-responder program to de-escalate incidents involving mental health issues and divert jail time.

Legislative Briefing Dinner  
Jaleo  
7th Street Northwest

Present: Beale, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Council Members attended the Legislative Briefing Dinner.

U.S. Capitol Tour by Representative Derek Kilmer  
100 East Capitol Street Northeast

Present: Beale, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Representative Kilmer lead a tour of the U.S. Capitol Building.

## **Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness  
301 Seventh Street Southwest  
[Matthew Doherty, Executive Director; Katy Miller, Seattle Regional Office]

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting did not have a quorum of City Council Members.

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk