



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650
December 14, 2023

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker, Kiara Daniels,
Sarah Rumbaugh, John Hines (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Council Member Daniels and Chair Ushka participated virtually.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Daniels, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Hines

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Briefing Items

1. [23-1213](#) Proposal to Amend Chapter 8.17 Tacoma Municipal Code -
False Reports of Crime
[Keith A. Echterling, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office]

At approximately 4:33 p.m, Keith Echterling, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, presented the proposal to amend Chapter 8.17 of the Tacoma Municipal Code related to False Reports of Crime, including an agenda; overviews; issues; proposed revisions; and next steps, noting the Washington State law safe harbor provision for correct use of 911.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding 911 call types, how crimes are reported, the Tacoma Fire Department Cares Program, ambulance usage, and criminal prosecution.

MOTION: Council Member Rumbaugh moved to forward the proposed amendments to Chapter 8.17 of the Tacoma Municipal Code relating to False Crime Reports to the full City Council for consideration.

SECOND: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 4 - Daniels, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Hines

Absent: 1 - Blocker

2. [23-1214](#)

Rental Housing Code Additional Research Work Plan

[Ted Richardson, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Office of Strategy]

At approximately 4:51 p.m., Ted Richardson, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Office of Strategy, and ChiQuata Elder, Senior Equity Programs Consultant, Office of Equity and Human Rights, presented the Rental Housing Code (RHC), including the background; timeline; considerations; research questions with overlapping details for winter weather eviction ban; school year eviction ban, the economic displacement relocation assistance; pet fees, rent, and deposits, and move in fees and deposits.

Discussion ensued regarding winter weather eviction, eviction types, school year eviction ban, and the economic replacement relocation assistance program.

MOTION: Chair Ushka moved to prioritize for further study into three phases;

Phase 1: Item No. 6 (income to rent ration) and Item No. 8 (digital legal notices and tenant information packets);

Phase 2: Item No. 10 (winter weather eviction ban), Item No. 11 (school year eviction ban), Item No. 13 (economic displacement relocation assistance); and

Phase 3: Item No. 1 (pet fees, rent, and deposits), Item No. 5 (move in fees and deposits).

SECOND: Council Member Rumbaugh.

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

Ayes: 4 - Daniels, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Hines

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [23-1215](#) December 28, 2023 - Cancelled

D'Angelo Baker, Committee Liaison, stated that the meeting for December 28, 2023, has been cancelled; the next meeting will be on January 11, 2024, and will include the election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair, anti-displacement strategy update and RHC research project; and the January 25, 2024, meeting will include the Commission on Immigrant and Refugees Affairs annual report and work plan.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Daniels would like a guide created for the community for youth and seniors struggling with homelessness that can be used as a resource for help at all hours with no time restrictions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Catherine Ushka, Chair

Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office