



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**June 13, 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:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [23-0621](#) Alternative Response Quarterly Update

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, presented a timeline overview of Alternative Response, current response methods, focus areas, future response methods, and response spectrum. Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented the project overview and quarter two updates for the Homelessness Engagement and Alternatives Liaison (HEAL) team. Mary Hallman, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, presented Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement (HOPE) project overview, establishment of HOPE team, and introduced Cassie Hallstone and Aleesia Morales, Business Services Managers, Behavioral Health Crisis Response. Together Hallstone and Morales presented the HOPE team program structure, noting the team will be dispatched directly via South Sound 911; team name and branding; Co-Responder Outreach Alliance; and implementation status. Paul Junger, Deputy Chief, Tacoma Police Department, continued with an overview of the implementation of community service officers, and status. City Manager Pauli presented the quarter three timeline. Griffith concluded with the Community Trauma Response Team, launch and volunteers' recruitment, overview of outreach, and services provided since the February 2023 launch.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for thoughtfulness of implementation; communication with dispatch; collecting data; Designated Crisis Responder collaboration; flowchart data, tracking,

and analysis; community safety strategy; community voice; quarter three community assembly; funding and studying of plans; volume; resources; appreciation for providing both the positive and negative updates; communication with community members; design of uniforms; Police staff presence; cost and budget for membership; infrastructure; community engagement and outreach; and excitement for the HOPE team.

2. [23-0622](#) Homeless Services and Strategy Update

At approximately 12:51 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Director, NCS, introduced Caleb Carbone and Javon Carlisle, Principal Community Resources Analysts, NCS, and provided gratitude to the entire NCS team. Carbone provided a brief overview and inclement weather response. Carlisle further continued with the implementation of TMC 8.19, noting HEAL team outreach statistics; capacity of emergency, temporary, and safe parking beds; 311 requests related to homelessness; South Sound 911 safety stats; staffing levels of the HEAL team; and enforcement of TMC 8.19. Carbone concluded with the shelter update; safe parking checklist; ensuring affordable housing; access to services and support; funding considerations, noting the revised projected homelessness response system capacity; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding loss of shelter beds and increase to permanent supportive housing; potential providers for safe parking locations; one time funding gap; avenues for community support; safe parking requirements versus recommendations; removing barriers to help homelessness; Pierce County data; regional collaboration; shelter variety and capacity; capable providers; available funding approach; exiting plan and permanent solutions; tracking of accepting and declining services; seasonality of acceptance; non-prohibited zones; voluntary compliance; and the extension of Temporary Emergency Micro-Shelter sites.

3. [23-0623](#) Participatory Budgeting

At approximately 1:59 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), introduced Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Coordinator, Media and Communications Office; Mac Acabado, and Liesl Santkuyl, Financial Services Analysts, OMB. Coble presented an overview, what participatory budgeting is, noting the five stages and partner organizations; the Council District 4 steering committee; and timeline. Acabado presented Council District 4 phases three and four, noting proposal development and phase four voting; and idea collections top categories. Santkuyl concluded with proposal development and final ideas, voting, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding thanking everyone involved for their work and passion, community engagement and partnership, and continual incorporation into the budget.

### Other Items of Interest

- 5. [23-0625](#) Council Consideration Request - Historic District Moratorium

Council Member Rumbaugh presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution to direct the Planning Commission, in coordination with the Landmarks Preservation Commission, to conduct a public process to develop findings of fact and recommendations as to whether a moratorium on nomination and designation of local historic special review and conservation districts is warranted, and if so, to recommend the scope and duration.

- 4. [23-0624](#) Council Consideration Request - Buffalo Soldier Museum Event Sponsorship

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$6,000 of Council Contingency funds to sponsor the Buffalo Soldier Museum event honoring our military labor force, noting that this important community event celebrates the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers, Tacoma’s BIPOC community, current and retired military members, and their families.

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Mayor Woodards presented the discussion of renaming the National Audubon Society in Tacoma due to new knowledge that the namesake and his family were anti-abolitionist and enslaved nine people as well as actively harmed and looted from indigenous people. She further stated the Tacoma Audubon Society is asking for the Council to weigh in on this conversation locally, and suggested the Council will draft a letter to send to the Audubon.

Mayor Woodards mentioned that Tacoma For All dropped off their first wave of signatures to get their initiative on the November ballot and further explained the City has some options: to enact the initiative right away and it will become a City of Tacoma ordinance, to reject the initiative and it will still go on the November ballot, take no action, or the City may send an alternate to the voters on the same ballot. She concluded by stating the conversation will be brought back at the next Study Session.

Discussion ensued regarding next steps and the limitation on what could be amended.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [23-0626](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 8, 2023

City Manager Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Monday, June 19, 2023, as Juneteenth; proclaiming June 2023 as Ride Transit Month; and one Compassionate Tacoma recognition to SENCo. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and that Community Forum will be held during tonight's meeting.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk