



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

1660 L Street Northwest, Suite 501

Washington D.C. 20036

**March 13, 2017**

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## Special Meeting

The City Council conducted a special meeting of the Council beginning at 4:45 p.m., Monday, March 13, 2017, 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 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

**Absent:** 2 - Mello and Mayor Strickland

## REGULAR AGENDA

Meeting with various federal legislators or their staff to discuss the City of Tacoma's Federal Legislative Priorities as adopted by Resolution Nos. 39581 and 39615, and other matters pertaining to the City of Tacoma.

### Monday, March 13, 2017

National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families Youth & Young Adult Connections, Lobby Bar of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel - 2660 Woodley Road Northwest  
[Andrew O. Moore, Director]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan and Walker Lee

National League of Cities (NLC) staff, Andrew Moore, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF), Youth & Young Adult Connections Director and Mike Nelson, West Region Member Services and Engagement Program Manager, introduced themselves and described their roles with NLC.

Mr. Nelson stated he provides member services to 13 states in the western United States, noting he will be attending the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) conference in June. Mr. Moore stated he is one of five directors with YEF and oversees a staff of 26 who administer programs, including small grants, to address family economic success, afterschool care, early childhood,

and older youth, including drop out populations. He stated he is currently coordinating with organizations in Tacoma, including the Tacoma School District and the Foundation for Tacoma Students to convene a Western Regional Re-engagement Plus summit in Tacoma on December 6-8, 2017. He then stated NLC staff would like to better engage the City of Tacoma and Council Members in NLC in addition to connecting through the June AWC conference and the December summit, noting other immediate opportunities Tacoma may consider for deeper involvement with NLC are the Mayor's Education Policy Network and the Council for Youth, Education, and Families, the advisory body for the YEF Institute.

Legislative Briefing Dinner  
Lebanese Taverna - 2641 Connecticut Avenue Northwest

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members attended the Legislative Briefing Dinner.

## **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**

Meet staff in the lobby of the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
2660 Woodley Road Northwest

Present: Blocker, Ibsen and Walker Lee

Council Members gathered to share transportation.

Representative Derek Kilmer  
1520 Longworth House Office Building  
[Katie Allen and Rachel Appleton, Legislative Assistants]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma, including: homelessness, youth homelessness, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, small business development and support for entrepreneurs, federal and local policies regarding immigrants and refugees, Project PEACE, Tacoma's developing Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, the Northwest Detention Center, the Affordable Health Care Act, tax exemption status for municipal bonds, federal funding for Puget Sound, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding, and the return to the community and economy of investing in the clean-up and restoration of Superfund, brownfields and other such sites compromised by pollution.

Representative Kilmer's staff Katie Rose Allen, Legislative Assistant, and Rachel Appleton, Legislative Counsel, took turns sharing the Representative's support of Tacoma's concerns, spoke about actions and approaches the Representative intends to employ to advance solutions to the concerns he shares with the Council Members, and thanked Council Members for all support, information and examples Tacoma can provide to assist the Representative in his efforts.

Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast  
[Office of the Administrator]

The meeting scheduled with the Department of Transportation was cancelled.

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

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma including: homelessness, youth homelessness, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, shortage of affordable housing and increasing rental rates, small business development and support for entrepreneurs, federal and local policies regarding immigrants and refugees, Tacoma's participation in Welcoming Cities, Tacoma's developing Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, the Northwest Detention Center, the Affordable Health Care Act, tax exemption status for municipal bonds, federal funding for Puget Sound, EPA funding especially for Superfund and brownfields, addressing climate change, and infrastructure funding including TIGER grants and the Small Starts Program.

Representative Heck's staff, Jami Burgess, Chief of Staff, and David Marten, Legislative Assistant, took turns sharing the Representative's support of Tacoma's concerns, spoke about actions and approaches the Representative intends to employ to advance solutions to the concerns he shares with the Council Members, and thanked Council Members for all support, information and examples Tacoma can provide to assist the Representative in his efforts. Staff specifically noted that they would share any guidance they receive regarding the President's executive orders on immigration, any opportunities for support from the administration of small business development, and any organizations Council Members may be able to help recruit to participate in the issues for which they and Representative Heck share mutual concern.

Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street Southwest  
[Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current housing and homelessness issues in Tacoma including Tacoma's position as the largest city in the county which results in Tacoma incurring the most cost for providing homeless response; partnership with Tacoma Housing Authority to build out Phase IV of Salishan, a premiere HOPE VI project, that will include transitional housing, job skills development, and support for homeless youth; CDBG funding; consistency of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule with the City's Office of Equity and Human Rights and that Tacoma will be participating in a regionally coordinated Assessment of Fair Housing as recommended by the rule; and the impact of Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) on available housing in Tacoma.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staff, Stanley Hardy IV, Victoria Barton, and Joel Schumacher, Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations; Norm Suchar, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs; Stan Gimont, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs; and Michael Look, Acting Deputy Administrator, Region X (via phone); were complimentary of the effective interagency partnerships there are in Tacoma among the City, Pierce County, Tacoma Housing Authority, Tacoma School District, Metropolitan Park District, and other agencies. HUD shared that FY2017 funding announcements may be delayed due to the federal budget being in continuing resolution, and shared that Secretary Carson will be embarking on a listening tour and welcomed a letter of invitation to visit Tacoma.

Representative Adam Smith  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building  
[Fernando Ruiz, Legislative Assistant]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma including: homelessness, youth homelessness, CDBG funding, shortage of affordable housing particularly for veterans and active military at JBLM, small business development and support for entrepreneurs, federal and local policies regarding immigrants and refugees, funding for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, the Northwest Detention Center, the Affordable Health Care Act, tax exemption status for municipal bonds, infrastructure funding such as TIGER and Safe Routes to Schools and also

through programs such as CDBG and EPA that may not typically be thought of as infrastructure investment programs but have been used effectively by Tacoma to provide sidewalks, stormwater control and management, and other infrastructure.

Representative Smith's staff, Fernando Ruiz, Legislative Assistant, shared the Representative's support of Tacoma's concerns, spoke about actions and approaches the Representative intends to employ to advance solutions to the concerns he shares with the Council Members, and thanked Council Members for all support, information and examples Tacoma can provide to assist the Representative in his efforts. Staff specifically noted that the representative will re-introduce a bill regarding reform of the bed mandate in detention centers.

Senator Patty Murray  
SR-154 Russell Senate Office Building  
[Jason Smith, Policy Advisor]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Thoms and Walker Lee

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma including: homelessness, youth homelessness, CDBG funding, small business development and support for entrepreneurs especially the growing craft manufacturing industry in Tacoma, federal and local policies regarding immigrants and refugees, Tacoma's participation in Welcoming Cities, the Northwest Detention Center, opposing S.232 sponsored by Senators Feinstein and Grassley that proposes to eliminate the EB5 program which hasn't been applied more effectively in Washington than in Tacoma and been critical for projects such as Point Ruston, the Affordable Health Care Act, EPA funding especially for Superfund and brownfields, and infrastructure funding including TIGER for which the City thanks the Senator for creating.

Senator Murray's staff, Jason Smith, Policy Advisor, shared the Senator's support of Tacoma's concerns, spoke about actions and approaches the Senator intends to employ to advance solutions to the concerns she shares with the Council Members, and thanked Council Members for all support, information and examples Tacoma can provide to assist the Senator in her efforts. He noted that especially helpful are personal stories about improvements a person has been able to make as a result of funding from federal programs such as CDBG, that the Senator has requested clarity from Department of Homeland Security about the President's travel ban and they will share any guidance they receive, and that a continuing resolution through September that provides flat funding is a concern because no increase in funding equates to a cut particularly when considering an issue such as housing in the Seattle-Tacoma area which is one of the fastest growing housing markets in the country.

Senator Maria Cantwell  
SH-511 Hart Senate Office Building  
[Nicole Teutschel, Senior Advisor]

Present: Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen and Thoms

Council Members took turns sharing concerns and examples about current issues in Tacoma including: CDBG funding, shortage of affordable housing, small business development and support for entrepreneurs, federal and local policies regarding immigrants and refugees, Tacoma's participation in Welcoming Cities, the Northwest Detention Center, opposing S.232 sponsored by Senators Feinstein and Grassley that proposes to eliminate the EB5 program which hasn't been applied more effectively in Washington than in Tacoma and been critical for projects such as Point Ruston, the Affordable Health Care Act and thanked the Senator for her work on the New Markets Tax Credit program, which will provide \$6 million of the \$29 million Eastside Community Center building.

Senator Cantwell's staff, Pete Modaff, Legislative Director, shared the Senator's support of Tacoma's concerns, spoke about actions and approaches the Senator intends to employ to advance solutions to the concerns she shares with the Council Members, and thanked Council Members for all support, information and examples Tacoma can provide to assist the Senator in her efforts. Staff noted that the Senator will re-introduce her bill regarding low income housing tax credits.

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk