



City of Tacoma Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

December 09, 2021

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker,
Chris Beale, John Hines, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Hines, and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Beale

Council Member Beale arrived at 5:12 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [21-1228](#) Minutes for the meeting of July 22, 2021

MOTION: Vice Chair Blocker moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2021, meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Beale

Briefing Items

2. [21-1230](#) Transformation Update
[Brian Maxey, Senior Advisor, 21st Century Policing Solutions]

This item was continued to a date to be determined.

3. [21-1231](#) Camping Ordinance
[Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:33 p.m., Chair Ushka provided opening remarks and introduced Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services. Ms. Stewart presented legislative options to address camping on public property, including an overview, current approaches, shelter capacity, shelter work underway, and community comment themes. Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, presented bans in other jurisdictions, noting the cities of Yakima, Vancouver, Mercer Island, and Sea-Tac; and decision points, noting pros and cons, and key considerations. Ms. Stewart concluded by reviewing next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation to staff for their work on this topic, what a ban would do that is not already being done, how *Martin v. City of Boise* would affect a camping ban, geographic bans, whether a camping ban would apply to those living in vehicles, and potential conditions that would trigger enforcing a camping ban.

Council Member Beale arrived here, at 5:12 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding whether a list of available shelter beds exists and whether the information is available in a capacity to fill beds on demand, a request for a map showing a camping ban around schools and parks, how specific an ordinance would need to be for a geographic ban, safety issues for those living around encampments, encampment removal criteria, a timeline, outreach to jurisdictions who have already implemented bans, how a ban would be enforced, keeping crime and homelessness as distinct issues, impacts of Pierce County Jail restrictions on enforcement, impacts of police response times, crimes associated with homelessness, engaging volunteers in the community, potential risks or harm from volunteer actions, incorporating feedback from individuals who have experienced homelessness, impact of divertible calls for service, a request for staff to summarize Committee requests, whether Committee action is required, allowing new Council Members to have input on this issue, and whether law enforcement officers are trained to properly engage with individuals with mental illness or

chronic health issues.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [21-1232](#) December 23, 2021 - Cancelled

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the December 23, 2021, meeting has been cancelled.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

5. [21-1263](#) Written Public Comment

The City Clerk's Office received 11 written comments for this meeting.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Sally Perkins, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
2. Regina Eury, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
3. Kirsten Carlson, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
4. Esther Day, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
5. Daisha Gomillion, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
6. Andrea Haug, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
7. Rob Huff, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
8. Kiki, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
9. Oneida Arnold, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
10. Jill Goodman, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
11. Callista Brown, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
12. Kristen Wynne, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.

- on public property.
13. Athena Brewer, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
 14. April Smith, speaking legislative options to address camping on public property.
 15. Elizabeth Johnson, speaking legislative options to address camping on public property.
 16. Dena Jones, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
 17. Angela Connelly, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
 18. Courtney Farmer, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.
 19. Julie Warden, speaking on legislative options to address camping on public property.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office