



# City of Tacoma

## Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

9th Floor Visibility Center

October 15, 2013

3:00 PM

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### Call To Order

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**Present:** 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

### Briefing Items

1. **13-0168** Briefing on Demographic Representation on Citizen Committees, Boards and Commissions. **(Anita Gallagher, Council Assistant; Deputy Mayor Marty Campbell)**

Deputy Mayor Campbell stated he had staff research geographic and demographic representation on the City's Citizen Committees, Boards, and Commissions (CBCs) due to concerns about under representation from particular Council districts, including districts four and five. He noted the importance of staying apprised on the demographics of the CBCs.

Anita Gallagher, City Council Office, discussed research limitations, noting prior to the City Clerk's Office taking over the CBC appointments process in July of 2013, demographic data was not kept in one place and is not easily accessible for analysis. Ms. Gallagher stated staff recently compiled data on members of CBCs for which members are appointed by the City Council and a total of 17 groups were analyzed, yielding a data set of 146 total participants. She then further reviewed additional data on geographic, gender, and racial representation on the CBCs. Ms. Gallagher stated in partnership with the City Clerk's Office and the Media and Communications Office, staff have explored several methods for increased outreach for the purpose of advertising vacancies on the CBCs. She then reviewed options available to complement the existing outreach efforts, including public service announcements on TV Tacoma programming, increased community engagement, placing lists of vacancies in school packets, direct mailings, and web-based advertising. Discussion ensued regarding diversity; extending outreach to League of Women Voters, the Black Collective, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; other ways to get CBC vacancy information out, including a one-page flyer

outlining current vacancies that could be given out. Council Member Woodards inquired about expanding alternatives to include a recommendation on how the City can achieve more ethnic and gender diversity as opposed to just district diversity. She also suggested City staff or CBC chairs participate in public service announcements. Discussion ensued regarding other ways to attract diversity in certain areas, including having district-specific representatives speak to vacancies in their areas, and the importance of in-person community engagement versus mailings. Council Member Lonergan noted the importance of having freight mobility represented on the Transportation Commission.

**2. 13-0187 Fossil Fuel Divestment Request [Andy Cherullo, Finance Director]**

Finance Director Andy Cherullo stated the Sustainable Tacoma Commission wrote a letter to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee (IPS) strongly encouraging the City Council to consider divestment from fossil fuels, noting this would apply to the TERS Retirement fund and Deferred Compensation Plan for employees, noting the Commission believes investing in fossil fuels goes against the City's vision for sustainability. Mr. Cherullo stated a second letter was received from the Joint Labor Committee stating their opposition to changing the current investment strategy for both the TERS retirement fund and the Deferrred Compensation. Council Member Mello stated a brief discussion was held at a recent IPS meeting, however, the Committee has not had an opportunity to meet with the Commission and receive a full presentation. He noted if the Council wishes to have this occur, the IPS Committee Members recommend moving the topic to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for further discussion. Mayor Strickland noted one of the City's contracted investment fund managers would need to conduct a professional analysis of this item and there will be an associated cost. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the analysis and where it should be paid from; and moving forward with this item and hearing from the Commission at a future Government Performance and Finance Committee meeting. Deputy Mayor Campbell requested a clear definition of fossil fuel divestment.

## **Council Consideration Requests**

None.

## **Committee Reports**

None.

## **Other Items of Interest**

Deputy Mayor Campbell discussed immigrant integration, noting he believes the City can do better in the areas of civic engagement, language access, police and community relations, citizenships, and economic development. He noted 13 percent of citizens in Tacoma are foreign-born. He discussed the economic development opportunity to invest and support them, stating he plans to bring this back to the Public Safety, Human Services, and Education Committee to begin an assessment of the services provided in Tacoma and put together a plan for how it can be improved.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

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Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk