



# 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](http://www.zoom.us/j/85961604917) Passcode: 614650

**September 14, 2023**

**4:30 PM**

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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 4:30 p.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 5:05 p.m. and participated virtually.

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### Briefing Items

1. [23-0887](#) Interviews for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities  
[Nicole Emery, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:30 p.m., Chair Ushka provided opening remarks regarding the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities (TACOD) interviews, including that tonight is a continuation of interviews from the previous meeting, where Tony Hester, Billie Periman, and Cheri Coleman were recommended for appointment. Nicole Emery, City Clerk, informed the Committee that they would be interviewing one additional applicant, Hayley Edick, for the TACOD.

The Committee interviewed Hayley Edick.

Discussion ensued regarding the remaining two vacancies, and the qualifications of applicants.

**MOTION: Council Member Rumbaugh moved to recommend the appointment of Hayley Edick to the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities to serve a three-year term, retroactive to September 1, 2023, to expire August 31, 2026.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

**MOTION: Council Member Rumbaugh moved to recommend the appointment of Wanda McRae to the Tacoma Area Commission Disabilities to fill an unexpired term, to expire August 31, 2024.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

2. [23-0888](#) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Sales Tax - Mental Health Assessment [Vicky McLaurin, Interim Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Dawn Couch, Senior Project Manager, Berk Consulting]

At approximately 4:47 p.m., Vicky McLaurin, Interim Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, and Dawn Couch, Senior Project Manager, BERK Consulting, presented on the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (MHSUD) Sales Tax and mental health assessment with an overview; mental health and chemical dependency sales tax with a breakdown of what the tax was authorized to be used for; Tacoma’s MHSUD sales tax; funding timeline from 2005 through 2022; current funding guided by Council goals; project purpose, noting key questions, overview of how funds can be used, how funded programs support the community goals and priorities, outcomes of direct funding, and how the City can optimize the funding to achieve priorities for the project approach; and a timeline.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 5:05 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding housing needs of the population based on mental health crisis, recommendations to fill the gap of funds for individuals released from prison that need assistance, the use of the mental health treatment

program and how the program and funds can be used to address the opioid, fentanyl, and mental health crises, funding gaps analysts, and outreach to see how funds between the City and Pierce County can be pooled together to provide resources.

### Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [23-0889](#)

- September 28, 2023 - Metrics, Crystal Judson Family Center Update; Health
- October 12, 2023 - 8.17 Environmental Justice, and Achieving Equity Amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter
- Project False Reports of Crime; Rental Housing Data
- October 26, 2023 - To Be Determined


D'Angelo Baker, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on September 28, 2023, and will include the Crystal Judson Family Center update and a presentation on health metrics, environmental justice, and achieving equity; the October 12, 2023, meeting will include presentations on amendments to the Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.17 related to False Reports of Crime, and the Rental Housing Code data; and the October 26, 2023, meeting will include a placeholder for rental housing research presentation.


### Other Items of Interest

Council Member Rumbaugh requested to have a meeting before the end of the year with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for a report out on findings.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

  
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 Catherine Ushka, Chair

  
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 Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office