



# 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

September 12, 2023

12:00 PM

---

### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

\* \* \* \* \*

The study session recessed at 12:01 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 12:14 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [23-0878](#) Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.19 Implementation

At approximately 12:14 p.m., Caleb Carbone and Javon Carlisle, Principal Community Resources Analysts, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 8.19 implementation overview, including thanking the whole NCS department and other departments; data on encampment removals, debris removal, contacts made, accepted service, and placement in shelters; homeless engagement alternative liaisons (HEAL) team outreach statistics, noting outreach to prohibited areas and non-prohibited; reasons for service refusal; capacity of emergency and temporary beds, and safe parking sites; Tacoma FIRST 311 requests related to homelessness; South Sound 911 safety statistics; staffing levels of the HEAL team; enforcement of TMC Chapter 8.19; outreach breakdown by racial and ethnicity demographics; homeless strategy objectives to address racial disparities, noting the immediate, short-term, and long-term actions; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding staff's commitment, housing barriers,

temporary and permanent shelters, data collection, shelter capacity, duplicated data, allocation of resources, shelter bans and provider feedback, habitation in vehicles, substance use disorders in correlation to homelessness, shelter curfews; geographic statistics on Tacoma FIRST 311 and South Sound 911 calls, mental health services provided by shelters, personal property storage, safe site parking locations for recreational vehicles, additional demographic data points, and gaining trust within smaller encampments.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [23-0879](#) Council Consideration Request - Historic Cushman Street Fair Sponsorship

Council Member Hines presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$8000, of Council Contingency Funds to support the Historic Cushman Street Fair, sponsored by the North End Neighborhood Council, noting the event will also celebrate the re-launch of the commitment by the City and Tacoma Public Utilities to finding three potential future uses for the Cushman and Adams Substations buildings and properties. He concluded by stating the CCR would provide funding for music, food, drinks, free treats for kids, family activities, and provide the community a chance to watch a video tour inside the Cushman Substation and learn more about the City's Proctor Neighborhood Plan.

3. [23-0882](#) Council Consideration Request - Poverty to Possibilities Summit Sponsorship

Mayor Woodards presented a CCR to allocate \$5000, of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Poverty to Possibilities Summit, an annual event creating a safe space for the community to have open dialogue on how to dismantle the systems of exclusion, and these relationships have allowed a new narrative to evolve, and systems are more open to change. She concluded by stating this year's summit will continue to focus on how organizations and advocates can de-construct the narrative with those in poverty and move towards disrupting the systems that create barriers; and by addressing the interconnected issues affecting children and families in our community, we are ensuring that families are stronger, individuals gain stability, and kids are more successful.

Discussion ensued regarding deep and important conversations that take place at the summit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards stated that Tuesday, September 19, 2023, will be a joint study session with the Pierce County Council, the agenda will include an update on the City of Tacoma and Pierce County Homelessness Strategy and funding; and expressed excitement for having a regional discussion regarding homelessness in our community.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

### Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 4. [23-0883](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 7, 2023

Deputy City Manager Kurtis Kingsolver stated there are four ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming Saturday, September 16, 2023, as Hilltop Link Extension Day, proclaiming September 15–October 15, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month, recognition for Minh-Anh Hodge, and a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for Lois Bernstein. He concluded by stating there are no expected changes to tonight’s agenda, and tonight’s meeting includes community forum.

### Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

The City Council convened to executive session at 1:34 p.m.  
Chief Deputy City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:04 p.m.

## **Closed Session - Labor Negotiations**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to a closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

## **Adjournment**

The closed session was held after adjournment of the study session.

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

---

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

---

Nicole Emery, City Clerk