



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569  
**November 14, 2023**  
**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Walker called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines and Walker

**Absent:** 4 - Diaz, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Diaz arrived at 12:08 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [23-1107](#) 2023 Tacoma and Seattle Air Toxics Study Preliminary Results

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Council Member Bushnell introduced Puget Sound Clean Air Agency staff including Christine Cooley, Executive Director, and Erik Saganic, Technical Analysis Department Manager. Cooley provided a brief overview of the 2023 Tacoma and Seattle Air Toxics Study, including background, noting their vision and mission; importance of clean air; air pollution sources; industrial sources; and the goal to encourage and incentivize cleaner options instead of diesel.

Council Member Diaz arrived here, at 12:08 p.m.

Cooley continued with cleaner options to wood smoke, and monitoring and communicating results. Saganic presented the results of the preliminary study; previous air toxics studies; Environmental Protection Agency community scale air toxics grant; study objectives; monitored fixed sites over one year; ongoing monitoring; preliminary results on diesel exhaust, noting it is still a main risk; preliminary results of volatile organic compounds, aldehydes, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons not including diesel and metal toxins; trends, noting air toxics and diesel exhaust levels are declining; preliminary results, noting community interest of lead levels comparison; initial conclusions; and next steps, noting ongoing monitoring and specific projects. Cooley concluded with upcoming action to watch, noting zero emission truck collaborative recommendations, breaking barriers program at

climate solutions, and Tacoma's Climate Action Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants; wildfire smoke, noting tracking; tailpipe emissions; pollution at measured locations, noting demographics; Tideflats metered area; future grants and planning; and wood smoke.

2. [23-1108](#) 2024 Budget Adjustment Recommendations

At approximately 12:46 p.m., Reid Bennion, Acting Budget Officer, Finance, presented the mid-biennium modification briefing; including the purpose of modification; General Fund and other funds revenue updates; expense considerations; community safety, noting major initiatives and modification additions; and public safety overtime drivers. Tory Green, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), presented fire minimum staffing, productive time impact and strategy, and the timeline to full TFD operations staffing. Avery Moore, Police Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented the timeline for TPD operations staffing and minimum staffing, recommended staffing, and crime response strategies.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for TFD and TPD staff, noting trends of overtime; fully staffed impacts; minimum staffing levels; factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic; projections; timing of analysis; staffing cultural shift, noting training; and broader trend of staffing within City departments.

Bennion continued with budget modifications, including major initiatives and modification initiatives, related to housing and homelessness, access, health, and other modification additions. He concluded with the review of livable wage jobs; American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) updates; and risks and considerations.

Discussion continued regarding crime response strategy; green economy study; ARPA; housing and homelessness; the accessory dwelling unit accelerator; Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge funding; Library video game launch; health assessments; Link light rail rides, noting Tacoma Venues and Events partnership; Communities for a Healthy Bay; what was left out of the budget; reserve funding; rental assistance funds; Tacoma Reads; and South Tacoma and Tideflats assessments.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [23-1109](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 9, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two proclamations on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming, Sunday, November 19, 2023, as Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, and proclaiming, Monday, November 20, 2023, as Transgender Day of Remembrance, that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and that tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk