



City of Tacoma Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

July 11, 2019

4:30 PM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,
Chris Beale, Robert Thoms, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Approval of Minutes

[19-0718](#)

Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2019 Meeting

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Briefing Items

[19-0719](#)

Closed Captioning in Public Spaces

[Lucas Smiraldo, Management Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights]

At approximately 4:36 p.m., Lucas Smiraldo, Management Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights, made opening remarks; introduced Todd Holloway, Chair, Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities; and presented a summary of the request for a closed captioning ordinance.

Mr. Holloway provided background information regarding the history of closed captioning, noting closed captioning may be required for places of public accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and not enabling could be considered unlawful or discriminatory. Mr. Smiraldo presented the benefits of closed captioning, including for people who are deaf, seniors experiencing hearing loss, residents learning English, all communities during natural disasters, and individuals needing access to television in noisy environments. Mr. Holloway reviewed examples of other closed captioning models in public spaces. Mr. Smiraldo reported an overview of what has been learned from community engagement, ordinance details, and roll out of the ordinance. Mr. Holloway presented an outline of the number of people who benefit from closed captioning nationally and locally. Mr. Smiraldo concluded by reviewing the economic impact, ordinance enforcement, and a request to support the ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding an ordinance draft; clarity when drafting the ordinance; the recommended figure for the education campaign; tax and licensing involvement; accessible taxi services; draft ordinance timeline; and fines, enforcement, and compliance of the ordinance.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. EJ Hunter, 6027 South Mullen Street.
2. Tash Hansen-Day, Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center.
3. Debra Lamus, 13020 Lincoln Avenue Southwest, Lakewood.
4. Winfried Ho Jr, 29624 20th Avenue South, Federal Way.

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved that staff prepare a draft ordinance, regarding closed captioning, for the Community Vitality and Safety Committee to review.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

19-0720

July 25, 2019 - Homelessness Update; Northwest Detention Center Update; Advocates for Immigrants in Detention; Mental Health and Substance Abuse Tax

August 8, 2019 - Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Interviews; Rental Housing Code Update; Public Safety, Street Crime and Opioid Response

Bucoda Warren, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on July 25, 2019, and will include updates on homelessness, the Northwest Detention Center, Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest, and mental health and substance abuse. He further stated the August 8, 2019 meeting will include interviews for Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities and updates on the Rental Housing Code and public safety.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Beale requested a Committee discussion regarding the Housing Justice Project (HJP), on September 12, 2019 or September 26, 2019.

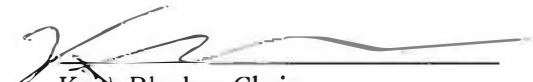
Discussion ensued regarding advocates for tenants being evicted, pro bono work, tenant and landlord rights, funding for HJP, advocates for immigrants, and enforcement and corrective action of closed captioning.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.


Keith Blocker, Chair


Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office