



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 823 7010 6303

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/82370106303 Passcode: 614650

September 23, 2021

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker,
Chris Beale, John Hines, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Beale

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0919](#) House Bill 1590 Outreach Plan
[Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 4:35 p.m., Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented on the Washington House Bill 1590 outreach plan, including background information; issues, noting outreach was designed to engage key community partners and to address key components of the strategic spending plan; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding whether partners and bonding are leaning more heavily towards purchasing pre-existing properties or new building projects, the amount the bond would be, Tacoma Housing Authority vouchers, whether there is potential to use Federal vouchers, what services were included in the funding distribution, which priority populations are eligible and if any are being left out, and whether it is possible to prioritize a percentage of services to people of color.

2. [21-0924](#) Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) Annual Report for 2020-2021 and Recommendations for 2021-2022
[Saiyare Rafaei, Commissioner; Rafael Saucedo, Commissioner, CIRA; Raeshawna Ware, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights]

At approximately 4:58 p.m., Saiyare Rafaei, Commissioner, and Raeshawna Ware, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Equity and Human Rights, presented on the CIRA annual report, including an overview; background information; achievements; CIRA sub-committee work areas of focus, noting community engagement, language access, the Northwest Detention Center, governance, and community safety; challenges, noting logistical support and diverse representation and support; recommendations; and actions for consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding CIRA orientation process, why the number of Commissioners was chosen, support for adding more Commissioners, using CIRA sub-committees as sources for future Commission Members, a request for recruiting suggestions, the upcoming language access policy, the value of this work, biennium budget input, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention Center, developing changes to the onboarding of new committee, board, and commission members City-wide, CIRA recommendations to welcome Afghani refugees, whether the new translation app in use by the Tacoma Police Department could be used elsewhere by the City, and the City's recent efforts to increase language access.

3. [21-0916](#) Committees, Boards, and Commissions of CVS
[Ted Richardson, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 5:31 p.m., Ted Richardson, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office, led a conversation on the Committees, Boards, and Commissions (CBCs) of the Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee, including an overview; the six CBCs under CVS, noting the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, the Human Services Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority, and the Community's Police Advisory Committee; and the purpose and meeting times of each CBC.

Discussion ensued regarding each Committee Member potentially being assigned to a CBC and attending that CBC meeting at least once a quarter and returning with a report to CVS, assigning CBCs tonight or having staff do it later, rotating Committee Members throughout CBCs, potentially having each Committee Member go to two CBC meetings per quarter and returning to CVS with a report, and ensuring coverage to prevent a CBC from being left out.

4. [21-0917](#) CVS 2021 Calendar
[Catherine Ushka, Chair, Community Vitality and Safety Committee]

At approximately 5:42 p.m., Mr. Richardson presented the remaining CVS 2021 calendar, including that Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving fall on CVS meeting dates, that the Veteran's Day meeting is being rescheduled to November 4, 2021, a possible second CVS meeting may take place on November 18, 2021, and that the December 23, 2021, meeting is close to a holiday as well and may be cancelled.

Discussion ensued regarding cancelling the December 23, 2021, meeting, the National League of Cities meeting on November 18, 2021, that the November meetings may need to be on a days other than Thursdays due to the holidays, that Chair Ushka will be out of town on November 4, 2021, and potentially needing the alternate to be available for that meeting, and potentially moving the November 18, 2021, meeting to a later start time.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [21-0918](#) October 14, 2021 - Youth Violence Prevention Assessment Update;
Transformation Update
October 28, 2021 - Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Library Services to the
Eastside and Hilltop Neighborhoods; CDBG/ESG funding
recommendations

Mr. Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on October 14, 2021, and will include updates on the youth violence prevention assessment and transformation, the October 28, 2021, meeting will include a feasibility study for the restoration of library services to the Eastside and Hilltop Neighborhoods, and CDBG/ESG funding recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding the transformation topics coming to CVS for review, that a new consultant, Brian Maxey, will be coming to the October 14, 2021, meeting to introduce himself and speak about his work, and that if Council Members have requests for more information on particular transformation items those items can be brought to CVS.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Catherine Ushka, Chair

Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office