

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**Quarterly Meeting with CEOs**  
Friday, August 12, 2022  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Remote meeting via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, JMAC Chair, Tacoma Public Schools  
Kristina Walker, JMAC Vice Chair, City of Tacoma  
Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Kiara Daniels, City of Tacoma  
Ryan Mello, Pierce County  
Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma  
Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Joshua Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools  
Eric Johnson, Port of Tacoma

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma  
Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Amy Johnson, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Joe Brady, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma  
Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma  
Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma  
Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma  
Deborah Trevorrow, City of Tacoma  
Evan Koepfler, Pierce County  
Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Evan Smith, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Rebecca Japhet, Pierce Transit  
Grantley Martelly, Pierce Transit  
Brittany Carbullido, Pierce Transit  
Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit  
Priscilla Lisicich, Safe Streets  
Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

**INTRODUCTION**

Chair Bonbright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of July 8, 2022 be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

## **PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION:**

Chair Bonbright stated that a previous meeting recap will now be added as a standing agenda item to future JMAC agendas.

**2-5-3 Employment Challenge:** Chair Bonbright reminded the committee that the committee discussed the 2-5-3 Youth Employment Challenge during the July meeting.

Hunter George reminded the committee that Superintendent Garcia issued a challenge to all JMAC participating agencies to support 2 SEED interns, 5 Jobs 253 interns, and 3 Next Move interns. Mr. George commented that to date 3 agencies have indicated they are participating and are connecting with appropriate staff. He continued by noting that two other agencies that have shown interest are not able to make the commitment at this time.

Mr. George stated that he will work with TPS to summarize each of these programs and will send the information out to JMAC members. Chair Bonbright commented that TPS is hosting an event August 18 highlighting one of the programs. She noted the Summer Jobs 253 celebration will be held at Silas High School from 11 am to 1 pm and will include a presentation about the program as well as a Job Fair with local employers seeking TPS student to hire. Committee members were invited to attend.

**Vice Chair Walker** commented that she has confirmed with the City Manager that the City will participate in the Youth Employment Challenge. Superintendent Garcia thanked Council Member Walker and indicated that the COT has been a part of this program and City staff have gone above the challenge numbers.

**Enhancing Public Safety: Part 1:** Chair Bonbright said the rest of the July JMAC meeting was focused on the topic of Enhancing Public Safety. At the meeting Police Chief Avery Moore gave a preview of TPD's Violent Crime Reduction Plan, which was released in full a few days later, and then each organization shared highlights of current security challenges and strategies.

Chair Bonbright then asked the recap questions for the day: ***After reading the plan, what is one takeaway from the TPD approach? After hearing the discussion with your colleagues last month, what is one insight about other agencies' approaches to their safety challenges and strategies?***

**Council Member Mello** commented that he will be looking at how the TPD's data-driven "hot spot" policing approach to reduce violent crime plays out in reality.

**Vice Chair Walker** commented that involving all City of Tacoma departments in the plan to make sure all the work being done is connected to support programs for the long-term remains important. She noted that City Council is continuing to push for programs for youth that support this strategy.

**Chair Bonbright** commented on the many similarities mentioned by JMAC members at the last meeting that highlighted the fact that many are using contracted security and have made a firm commitment to work on youth opportunities so as to provide positive and safe interactions. She also reflected on the Health Department's offer to assist by providing helpful equity data to JMAC partners.

**Grantley Martelly, representing Pierce Transit,** commented that public safety is critical in public transportation. Mr. Martelly stated that Pierce Transit appreciates TPD's focus on violent crime as it impacts staff and customers. He continued by informing the committee that Pierce Transit is also targeting hot spots with private security and working with the police department in those areas.

## **POLICY FOCUS AREA PRESENTATIONS: HEALTH & SAFETY**

Chair Bonbright stated that today's discussion is focused on continuing the conversation on **Enhancing Public Safety: Part 2**. She framed the conversation by noting TPD's plan has near-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies, including a "focused deterrence model" to engage community partners long-term to reduce violent crime. Chair Bonbright remarked JMAC agencies are already taking steps to enhance public safety and respond to incidents of crime and public nuisance, and the TPD plan challenges agencies to consider more.

Questions for CEO's to consider and report out for this meeting are as follows:

- ***How can your organization support enhanced efforts to reduce violent crime?***

***While violent crime is a necessary focus of law enforcement in the near term, we heard in July about how the daily security challenges are affecting JMAC member operations. Do you see opportunities to collaborate and/or elevate the work of other organizations to address other aspects of crime in our communities?***

**Melanie Harding, representing Tacoma City Manager Elizabeth Pauli**, commented that the City continues to invite all of the community to be a part of these conversations. Ms. Harding further stated the City is asking the community to support the first 6 months of TPD's plan in order to collect data so the plan can work as designed. Ms. Harding continued by stating the City is actively looking at what collaborative opportunities exist cross functionally to address alternative responses to crisis. She highlighted that staffing continues to be a barrier but welcome collaboration to solve these issues.

Ms. Harding remarked on the security challenges on the impact of homelessness. She stated that staff is working to establish a full continuum of shelter options for all unhoused members of community. The committee was informed by Ms. Harding about the new safe camping model pilot at 35<sup>th</sup> & Pacific, as well as establishing safe parking.

Ms. Harding commented that a 90-day report-out on violent crime plan is planned. She highlighted that the City remains open to ideas and feedback to address security needs including providing additional resources through strategies such as CPTED. Ms. Harding also said the City is exploring collaborations involving libraries, schools, and parks to create an "alternative response" for behavioral health issues that don't involve armed police officers.

**Chair Bonbright** suggested that JMAC may want to think about convening a security work group as a means for providing an opportunity where safety resources can be shared and discussed.

**Hunter George, presenting on behalf of Metro Parks Executive Director Shon Sylvia**, commented that MPT is active in these conversations with the City of Tacoma. He further commented that the Park District is interested in non-commissioned officers and has a goal of creating a park ranger program. Mr. George noted that a ranger program was piloted a few years ago prior to COVID that focused on Pt. Defiance and Ruston Way.

**Eric Johnson, Executive Director of the Port of Tacoma**, commented on a recent partnership with COT to address crime around the Tideflats. Mr. Johnson stated that the Port has seen an increase in homeless encampments, accompanied by an uptick in thefts. He thanked the City for clearing the site at Milwaukee Way, noting the dangers associated with trucks and trains in this area.

Mr. Johnson noted the serious issue with street racing that is occurring at the Port at night. He indicated that Port patrols have been working with law enforcement & a task force and things seem to be improving. Mr. Johnson also commented briefly that the Port's security strategy includes fully staffed security patrol 24/7, dispatch center, patrol cars and cameras.

**Dr. Josh Garcia, Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools**, commented he and TPS staff have been having conversations with community members about how they define personal safety. Dr. Garcia commented on ways TPS is intentionally making kids feel safe via the Whole Child tiered model. He also spoke about investing time in staff and students to be proactive. Dr. Garcia inquired as to the whether there is a plan in place to help the Tacoma community begin to heal.

**Melanie Harding representing City of Tacoma** commented that a plan to help broader community healing begins with an acknowledgement of harm caused by policing. Ms. Harding noted that this plan is in early stages and is going to be modeled after the approach supported by the National Network for Safe Communities.

**Grantley Martelly, representing Pierce Transit**, expressed the need to have more conversations with TPS as children receive transit passes. He noted the need to educate children about safety on public transit. He highlighted the need for continued communication and training for this purpose.

Mr. Martelly commented that Pierce Transit is working on the following to continue to address safety:

- Working with TPD on advisory group

- Using CPTED approaches with design
- Updating to more modern cameras- (non-commissioned officers monitor cameras at transit center)
- Boosting recruitment for public safety officers
- Continuing with security officers at transit centers
- Continuing to work with Chief of Tacoma PD
- Contracting with Lakewood Police, Federal Way Police and Puyallup Police
- Launching an in-house crisis team program
- Working with Pierce County Human Services to train supervisors

**Cindan Gizzi, standing in for Dr. Chen of Tacoma Pierce County Health Department**, commented that the Health Department thinks about crime and safety from a public health perspective which means prevention with evidence-based approaches. She highlighted family resources centers around the county to strengthen families which begins to break the cycle of violence, and nurse/ family partnerships to work with first-time moms and baby through their first two years.

Ms. Gizzi commented that TPCHD is pushing back on the City's request to wait for TPD data collection noting that they feel that community input is needed now to be part of data collection. She stressed that TPD could be engaging with residents ASAP about these issues. Ms. Gizzi inquired as to how TPCHD can help convene community for conversations to support these efforts.

Ms. Gizzi further commented that she is interested in learning more about bringing more restorative justice practices to support community. Additionally, Ms. Gizzi informed the committee that TPCHD is supporting Safe Streets for a grant to focus on youth safety.

**Priscilla Lisicich, Executive Director of Safe Streets**, was invited to comment and she shared that her organization is working with focus groups to make improvements centered around police/community relations. Ms. Lisicich noted Safe Streets is also working on a grant application centered around youth safety. She requested to meet with Melanie Harding.

**Pierce County Council Member Ryan Mello** stated that the County is also focused on other supports for people to get well and stay well, such as the mental health court and mitigating issue early. Council Member Mello commented that evidence-based strategies will help support the prevention measures.

Council Member Mello addressed the lack of capacity at the County Jail due to COVID and labor shortages. He did note that funding has been appropriated to properly staff the jail, but issues remain due to COVID outbreaks and an insufficient number of qualified candidates.

#### **WORKGROUP UPDATES -- Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma**

Hunter George commented about the following JMAC work groups:

- Equity Peers Group  
First meeting of equity officers has taken place. A great kick off meeting where members discussed JMAC themes and initiatives.
- Government Affairs workgroup  
This work group continues to identify issues to be addressed.
- JMAC Communications  
Working with Tanisha Jumper at the City to identify a staff connection to be able to post content to JMAC web page on City site.

Metro Parks Tacoma staff plan to build a dashboard that tracks JMAC work and actions.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Bonbright called for public comment. No comments were provided.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC**

**Pierce County Council Member Mello** noted his excitement related to work on Vision Zero as the County will be doing the same. He informed the committee that the County is looking to declare a goal and action plan effort over the next three weeks.

**Hunter George** commented that he did send out the JMAC update to Summit of 60 attendees and was curious if anyone has heard any feedback. Committee members indicated that they have not yet received any feedback.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, September 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Special Notes: Please mark your calendars:

- The November 2022 meeting has been changed to November 18th since November 11th is the Veterans Day holiday.
- The last meeting of the year with CEOs has been moved to December 9, 2022 (instead of November). Chair Bonbright stated that the thought is to have this meeting in-person.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

*\*Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma*