



# City of Tacoma

## Committee of the Whole 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

**July 12, 2022**

**3:00 PM**

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### SPECIAL MEETING

#### Call To Order

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Briefing Item

1. [22-0778](#) Council Priority Strategy Workshop Part 2: Jobs

At approximately 3:14 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks about the City Council priorities, and introduced Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications Office (MCO). Jumper continued by presenting the workshop objectives, noting today's focus on livable wage jobs; and reviewed the development process for the City Council priority areas. Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, MCO, presented the City Council priority areas of safety, and housing and homelessness, including the key objectives to be discussed and measures of success. Jumper outlined instructions for Council Member feedback. Colon concluded by reviewing the key objectives and measures, and examples of supporting tactics for the City Council priority area of livable wage jobs, noting increasing and improving workforce development, increasing the number of jobs in Tacoma, and increasing local small businesses surviving through the COVID-19 pandemic. Jumper concluded by providing instructions for Council Member feedback.

Discussion ensued regarding measurements for increasing and improving workforce development, including decreasing unemployment and underemployment, decreasing the length of time positions are open, increasing the number of jobs earning over 80 percent of area median income (AMI), increasing professional pipelines from high school to living wage jobs,

increasing the number of people who can live and work in Tacoma, more training tied to anchors of Tacoma's future, improving housing affordability and community diversity, tracking partnerships with community partners, tracking internships for transitioning people into living wage jobs, increasing living wage jobs in healthcare, helping businesses find qualified local candidates, developing training programs to match the jobs available in the City, and training for behavioral mental health.

Together, Colon and Jumper summarized the top measures, including decreasing unemployment and underemployment, increasing jobs earning over 80 percent of AMI, and increasing pipelines to livable wage jobs.

Discussion continued regarding measurements related to increasing the number of jobs in Tacoma, including increases in the number and variety of jobs earning over 80 percent of AMI, the number of people who live and work in Tacoma, investments in local entrepreneurs, diversity in the largest employers outside government and nonprofits, the number of businesses in Tacoma, activity at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, jobs that support the Port of Tacoma and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, longevity of businesses and long-term success, the number of business permits, green and technology jobs, jobs at all income levels, and union-represented jobs; and decreasing the number of vacant storefronts.

Together, Colon and Jumper summarized the top measures, including increasing jobs earning over 80 percent of AMI, diversity in the largest employers outside government and nonprofits, and jobs at all income levels.

Discussion continued regarding measurements related to increasing local small businesses surviving through the COVID-19 pandemic, including increasing the number of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses; maintaining the number of ongoing business licenses; increasing the types of small businesses; improving quality of life metrics for businesses, increasing business retention, increasing spending from anchor businesses on other businesses, increasing benefits offered to small business employees, increasing revenues, increasing commercial space use, and increasing the number of employees.

Together, Colon and Jumper summarized the top measures, including increasing the number of BIPOC businesses, maintaining the number of ongoing business licenses, and increasing the types of small businesses.

Jumper concluded by presenting next steps, including the proposal to schedule four additional Committee of the Whole special meetings, where the remaining priority areas will be discussed.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk