City of Tacoma
Community Vitality and Safety Committee Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

May 09, 2019

4:30 PM

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

Change of Location

Call To Order

Vice Chair Ushka called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

Present: 3 - Beale, Thoms and Ushka
Absent: 1 - Blocker

Council Member Blocker arrived at 4:47 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to change the order of the agenda to address Item No. 4 regarding the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board interviews first.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.
Ayes: 3 - Beale, Thoms and Ushka
Absent: 1 - Blocker

Briefing Items

4. 19-0478 Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board interviews
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:45 p.m., the Committee conducted interviews for the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board and began by interviewing Ethan Wing.

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 4:47 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

1. **19-0475** Approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting

2. **19-0476** Approval of the minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting

3. **19-0477** Approval of the minutes of the joint Pierce County Human Services Committee meeting of April 25, 2019

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 and March 28, 2019 meetings, and the April 25, 2019 joint meeting with the Pierce County Human Services Committee.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

Briefing Items

19-0478 Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board interviews
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

The Committee continued to interview Meredith Neal, Terri Scott, and Kimber Starr.

Doris Sorum, City Clerk, stated Geraldine Urbas was unable to attend the interviews.

Discussion ensued regarding the vacant positions and which applicants are eligible for the positions.

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to recommend the appointment of Meredith Neal to the "Contractor Rep." designation on the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board to serve a two-year term, retroactive to March 1, 2019, to expire February 28, 2021.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to recommend the appointment of Terri Scott to the "Lender Rep." designation on the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board to fill an unexpired term to expire February 29, 2020, followed by a two-year term to expire February 28, 2022.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to recommend the appointment of Kimber Starr to the "Realtor Rep." designation on the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Board to fill an unexpired term to expire February 29, 2020, followed by a two-year term to expire February 28, 2022.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

5. **19-0479** Northwest Detention Center
[Council Member Blocker, City Council]

At approximately 5:05 p.m., Council Member Blocker stated he would like to conduct a policy development discussion regarding issues related to the

Northwest Detention Center (NWDC). He further stated there will be a series of Committee discussions over the course of the next two to three months on this topic, City staff will provide a draft work plan that addresses the items brought up at today's meeting, and there will be subsequent briefings on the research that will inform any policy decisions that the Committee chooses to make. Council Member Blocker concluded by providing the objectives of the discussions that will be held in the next few meetings and invited Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (CIRA) members Jefferson Mok and Perla Gamboa-Ravelo to the table to participate in the discussion, including providing questions on what they would like the City to address and how the City can proceed in addressing the concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding a timeline of history showing where the City has been with the NWDC, a letter submitted to the Committee from La Resistencia (formerly named NWDC Resistance), visiting and speaking with detainees of the NWDC, how to tour the NWDC without the participation of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a letter submitted to all Council Members from NWDC subcommittee of the CIRA, reviewing what the City has done in the past and the next steps, challenges, service providers the City currently contracts with where the contracts can be amended, policy issues, the NWDC's emergency evacuation plan, land use controls, and level of capacity for City staff to do in-depth research. Discussion continued on receiving a background document of the origination of the NWDC, provision of items the City has or hasn't done in regards to permits, options for cost reimbursement for emergency services, the City's specific ability to require humanitarian standards and the ability to oversee them, what would be credible authentic oversight, what power the City has to do something about oversight issues, regulation of the business license for NWDC and the conditions, having a legal review of the amortization as a land use tool to amortize the use out of Tacoma, advantages of having the NWDC in Tacoma, and clarification of what elected officials can and cannot do independently from the City.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Wendy Pantoja, La Resistencia.
2. Rose Pytte, Advocates for Detained Voices.
3. Ryan Kinniny, Advocates for Detained Voices.
4. Chris Paredes, resident.

Discussion concluded on issues that detainees have described regarding the NWDC, learning what the NWDC regulations are, provision of a response in regards to the oversight of food, and working with advocacy groups to obtain outside medical information of detainees with specific information redacted.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

6. 19-0480 May 23, 2019 - Human Services Commission interviews

June 13, 2019 - Continuous Improvement Advocates Project: Reducing Emergency Medicine Treatment Errors; closed captioning resolution and education campaign

William Suarez, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on May 23, 2019, and will include Human Services Commission interviews, and the meeting on June 13, 2019 will include presentations on the Continuous Improvement Advocates Project: Reducing Emergency Medicine Treatment Errors and the closed captioning resolution and education campaign.

Discussion continued on the timeframe for when research for the NWDC will be done and will be brought back to the Committee.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Ushka stated the Tacoma Refugee Choir is having a concert on June 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., and will be located at Urban Grace Church. She encouraged everyone to attend and provided flyers for the event.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

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Keith Blocker, Chair

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Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office