



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity & Human Rights
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee
PRESENTER: Diane Powers, Korbett Mosesly, Office of Equity & Human Rights
SUBJECT: The State of Black Tacoma
DATE: Thursday, September 12, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Councilmember Blocker requested an informational briefing to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee about the “State of Black Families in Tacoma.” This informational presentation highlights several measurable community indicators related to the Tacoma 2025 strategic plan in the five focus areas.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR) is responsible for ensuring the City of Tacoma carries out the goals established by the City Council’s Equity and Empowerment framework and supporting racial equity throughout the City’s strategic plan.

One of the City’s strategic visions is for Tacoma to be one of the safest cities in Washington State by 2025. This is defined as strong partnerships between law enforcement, neighborhood groups, and public officials have reduced crime rates and recidivism, making Tacoma residents feel safe and secure. Community cohesion is improved and sustained through proactive prevention programs and youth outreach. Tacoma also boasts high rates of personal, communal, and environmental health. All of this has improved overall health and reduced health disparities.

ISSUE:

Our focus is eliminating the underlying disparities in safety and health that impact underrepresented communities. These disparities exist because many communities of color have experienced a long history of trauma through institutional and systemic racism. This history of discrimination has resulted in disparities in access to employment, housing, education, and other opportunities that communities need for their safety, health, and well-being. The legacy of this discrimination has disproportionately impacted young men of color and particularly Black men.

To achieve the goals of Tacoma 2025, OEHR is working with local institutions, community partners and businesses to build safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunities. Given the disparities that exist, we are targeting our approach to Black youth first.

This presentation will highlight data we’ve collected to better inform council on the State of Black Families in Tacoma including progress and current disparities.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.