



## WEEKLY REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2019

Members of the City Council  
City of Tacoma, Washington

**Dear Mayor and Council Members:**

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

1. Please mark your calendars for the **City Council Strategic Planning Work Session on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, at the University of Puget Sound's Tahoma Room. More details will be provided closer to the date.

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

2. Tacoma Police Chief Don Ramsdell provides the **attached flyer for Project PEACE with fall 2019 highlights**. Project PEACE helps build relationships between Tacoma Police and residents of Tacoma. Combined with their long-standing philosophy of Community Orientated Policing, the project helps to foster safer neighborhoods and a higher level of community engagement through numerous interactions each season.
3. This year the **Tacoma Police Department's Shop With A Cop event** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, at Tacoma's Target Store. Shop with a Tacoma Cop is a unique event in which Tacoma Police employees can share Christmas with children and families that are in need and make lasting and memorable holiday experiences for children and their families in our community! This year Tacoma Police is hoping to take over a hundred children shopping.

### **STUDY SESSION/WORK SESSION**

4. The **Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Study Session** of Tuesday, December 10, 2019, will be held in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North, at Noon. Discussion item will include: (1) **City-wide Federal and State Legislative Agendas**. Immediately following the Joint Study Session, there will be a regular City Council Study Session. Discussion items will include: (1) **Executive Session – City Manager's Mid-Year Performance Review**; (2) **Local Improvement District No. 7731 Appeal Hearing** (at approximately 1:30 p.m.); (3) **Other Items of Interest**; (4) **Committee Reports**; and, (5) **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**.

At Tuesday's Joint City Council/Public Utility Board study Session, **Tacoma Public Utility and General Government staff will share the city-wide proposed Federal and State Legislative Agendas** for review prior to Council consideration at Tuesday's Council meeting.

Immediately following the Joint Study Session, there will be a regular City Council Study Session. The first item on the agenda will be an **Executive Session to discuss the City Manager's Mid-Year Performance Review**. Please see the attached reference document and form on page four. In preparation for the discussion, please fill out page four and bring with you to the Executive Session.

During the City Council Study Session, **at approximately 1:30 p.m., the City Council will have a quasi-judicial hearing for an appeal to Local Improvement District (LID) No. 7731**. Materials for your review prior to that hearing will be sent via email.

5. The updated **Tentative City Council Forecast and Consolidated Standing Committee Calendars** are attached for your information.

#### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

6. The City has applied for the following grant:
  - **Volkswagen Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at State and Local Government Owned Facilities**- Funding for infrastructure for charging electric vehicles to be installed at three properties, each with more than 100 stationed employees: Solid Waste Management campus; Central Treatment Plant; and, Tacoma Municipal Building parking lot. The City is requesting \$81,000, with a City match requirement of \$127,069, which is not earmarked in the current budget.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

7. You have been invited to the following events:
  - **Tacoma Urban League's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Luau on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**, at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, located at 4851 South Tacoma Way.
  - **Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce 2019 Public Official Holiday Jingle & Mingle on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**, at the Tacoma Art Museum, located at 1701 Pacific Avenue.
  - **Association of Washington Cities' City Action Days on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**. Registration opens December 4<sup>th</sup> and more information is available on AWC's website: <https://www.wacities.org/events-education/conferences/city-action-days>

- **Tacoma Community College's 2020 Annual Reach Higher Luncheon on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 1:00 p.m.**, at TCC, Building 20 - Health & Wellness Center, located at 6501 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Pauli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth A. Pauli  
City Manager

EAP:crh  
Attachments

# PROJECT PEACE

## FALL 2019

## Partnering for Equity and Community Engagement

Project PEACE helps build relationships between the Tacoma Police Department and the citizens of Tacoma. Combined with our long-standing philosophy of Community Oriented Policing, Project PEACE helps to foster safer neighborhoods and a higher level of community engagement.

This happens through numerous interactions each season. Here are just a few highlights:

### YOUTH

#### ENGAGEMENT

- 20 meetings in schools — career days, first day of school, community fairs, “good mornings” at elementary schools and more
- 12 meetings outside of schools at youth centers, community parades, playing basketball, park clean-ups and more
- Recovery Café meeting on bridging the gap with youth
- Lock-down drill at University of Puget Sound
- 10 weekly Explorer meetings; 6 days at the Washington State Explorer Academy



### DIVERSE

#### COMMUNITIES

- National Night Out in various communities
- 20 meetings with groups like ARK Institute, Asian Pacific Cultural Center and more
- Flag raising and LGBTQ community awards
- Shared Housing Services community mural unveiling
- Elderly safety talks at 6th Ave. Apartments and Vintage of Tacoma
- Homeless activity and solutions with Hilltop Action Coalition

### PROFESSIONALISM

- 22 meetings with outside groups like Safe Streets, Business Improvement Area, Asian Pacific Cultural Center, Department of Corrections, Puyallup Tribe, Kaiser Permanente, Washington State Health Department and more
- 7 training sessions on the psychology of active shooters, suicide prevention, blood borne pathogens and more
- Provided numerous safety presentations like active-shooter information for Costco employees, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design to Burkhart Dental and Tacoma Electric Supply, vandalism prevention with Tacoma Dodge and more
- Community Liaison Officers participated in numerous community clean-up gatherings throughout the city



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[www.tacomapolice.com](http://www.tacomapolice.com)



@TacomaPD

# CITY OF TACOMA 2020 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### **Affordable Housing and Homelessness**

Cities face a crisis of homelessness and lack of affordable housing. This crisis is overwhelming at the intersection of mental health, substance use disorder and homelessness. Effective local responses require multi-sector partnerships and a strong federal partner. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities in calling on Congress and the Administration to **ensure sufficient federal funding streams are in place, federal funds are appropriated directly to the local level and programs reliable for decades such as HOME, CDBG and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grants that serve the most vulnerable populations are preserved**. Tacoma has invested these programs wisely and will continue to draw on their support to advance its priority initiatives such as the *Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS)* to safeguard and increase the number of affordable, available, and accessible housing units throughout the city over 10 years.

### **Infrastructure**

Tacoma citizens have approved initiatives to invest in local streets and transit, but the magnitude of some projects such as replacement of the 90-year old Puyallup River Bridge cannot be achieved through local and State funds alone. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities in declaring that America's infrastructure problems cannot wait and calls on Congress and the Administration to **find adequate, reliable, and sustainable long-term funding for a vibrant web of connected transportation options** that reflect local needs and priorities.

Access to high-speed broadband service in every community is essential to our ability to provide quality education, create more jobs, and increase small business growth. Local governments are central players in ensuring broadband connection to homes and businesses is achieved. The City calls on the Federal Communications Commission and Congress to **preserve local government authority to manage their rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate**.

### **Environment**

On September 20, 2019 Tacoma's youth and young adults joined with their companions around the world to call for a global climate strike and greater, more urgent climate leadership from their elected officials and public institutions. Tacoma is among 438 cities representing 70 million Americans that **continue to honor and uphold the commitments**



**to the goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement**, despite President Trump's 2017 withdrawal. These cities continue to lead by increasing investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, buying and creating more demand for electric cars and trucks, increasing efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, creating a clean energy economy, and standing for environmental justice and building and strengthening relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks.

### **Human Dignity and Safety**

The Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma is a privately-owned detention facility that operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration & Customs Enforcement to house non-U.S. citizens who are apprehended and determined to need custodial supervision. The City urges its Congressional delegates to continue to pursue legislation that would **end the use of privately-operated prisons and instead utilize available alternatives to immigration detention**. The City applauds the leadership in Washington's congressional delegation who introduced the *Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act* that would restore dignity and justice to the broken detention system.

The City urges Congress to **provide and ensure funding is accessible to cities to respond to the national opioid epidemic**. Every day, an average of two Washington residents dies from an opioid-related overdose. Tacoma, one of the conveners of the Pierce County Opioid Task Force, is also one of six cities from across the country that was selected to participate in the National League of Cities Mayors' Institute on Opioids.

In 2017, 39,773 people died from gun-related injuries in the United States; three quarters of all murders and approximately half of all suicides involved a firearm. Every year, 600 American women are shot to death by intimate partners. Finding and declaring that gun violence directly affects the city and its residents, the Tacoma City Council adopted a Firearms and Ammunition Tax. The City joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities in urging the President to **advance critical legislation to reduce gun violence and promote public safety**.

### **Employer-provided Healthcare Coverage**

A provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would impose a 40% tax on the most generous employer-provided health insurance plans that has yet to take effect, known as the "Cadillac tax," would have a negative impact on cities as employers. For the City of Tacoma, a 2016 study indicated that City could owe as much as \$6M per year starting in 2025. The City has experienced recent positive trends in healthcare costs so the potential tax impacts have been pushed out for a few years beyond 2025. However, the tax still represents a significant financial risk. **The City supports repeal of the 40% tax on employer-provided healthcare coverage.**

## TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

### **TPU-Wide**

*Protecting/amending tax exempt financing:* TPU supports legislation that promotes the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds. TPU will support proposals that revoke recent changes relating to the advanced refunding of bonds. Tax exempt municipal bonds keep costs low for customers.

### **Tacoma Power**

*Increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:* Tacoma Power continues to support federal appropriations for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

*Provide funding for the Hydropower Incentive Program:* Tacoma Power continues to support federal appropriations for the Department of Energy's Hydropower Incentive Program. The program provides payments to hydropower utilities, including Tacoma Power, for hydroelectric production that was added to an existing dam or conduit.

*Support certain improvements to federal hydroelectric relicensing statutes:* Tacoma Power supports efficiencies and streamlining of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower licensing and relicensing policies, similar to bipartisan proposals put forward by Sen. Maria Cantwell and Sen. Lisa Murkowski in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

*Carbon reduction policies:* TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.

*Support proposals to improve BPA's competitiveness:* TPU will continue to support federal proposals to improve BPA's competitiveness. Specific examples include legislation that would more accurately allocate Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) costs to BPA customers and authority to directly purchase carbon allowances as a result of wholesale power sales.

*Support legislation to maintain municipal utility control over poles and pole attachment rate setting:* TPU supports legislation that would ensure that municipally-owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage pole attachments on utility poles.

*Support federal programs to improve broadband access for lower-income residents:* TPU will support federal programs, including the FCC's Lifeline Program, that help make broadband services more affordable for low-income residents.

## **Tacoma Water**

### *Support implementation of the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project:*

Tacoma Water continues to support federal authorization, appropriations, and actions necessary to complete the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project. Any federal action must respect federal/non-federal cost share agreements already in place. TPU believes Howard Hanson Dam fish passage and the Additional Water Storage Project are critical to salmon and orca recovery as a construction-ready project with broad impact.

### *Support full funding of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA):*

Tacoma Water is supportive of appropriations to fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

*Support funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:* Tacoma Water supports adequate appropriations for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

## **Tacoma Rail**

### *Support permanent extension of the Railroad Track Maintenance Credit:*

Tacoma Rail supports permanent extension of the Railroad Track Maintenance Credit – or “45G” tax credit. Tacoma Rail receives about \$250,000 in annual revenues from the 45G tax credit. Those funds have been used for a number of safety upgrades as well as to comply with unfunded federal requirements mandated by the 2008 Rail Safety Act.

*Establish capital grant program for short line railroads:* Tacoma Rail seeks to work with Congress to establish a short line specific freight railroad state-of-good-repair program as part of the federal freight/rail title and other federal programs. Specifically, establishment of a competitive capital grant program for short line regional railroad infrastructure improvement projects.



# CITY OF TACOMA 2020 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### **Northwest ICE Processing Center**

The Northwest ICE Processing Center, located in the Tacoma tide flats, is an immigration detention facility operated by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The City Council shares concern expressed by the Tacoma community for the health, safety, and welfare of detainees held in the facility. The City joins other stakeholders in requesting the State Legislature to take immediate action to address these concerns:

- *Clarification that the NW ICE Processing Center is not an essential public facility:* In 2018, the City implemented local zoning regulations that prevent the Northwest ICE Processing Center from expanding to accommodate additional detainee capacity. GEO group has legally challenged these regulations, arguing that the Center is an essential public facility. The City requests that the Legislature clarify that privately-operated detention facilities are not essential public facilities, thereby resolving the litigation and upholding the local zoning regulations.
- *Regulatory Oversight & Ban of Privately-Operated Detention:* The City supports efforts to immediately bring transparency, accountability, and oversight to the operations of the Northwest ICE Processing Center and eliminate privately operated detention centers as an immigration enforcement option in Washington State.

### **Affordable Housing**

#### **Tacoma Housing Affordability By-The-Numbers**

- Home prices have increased by 33% from March 2016 – March 2018. During that same time frame, rents have increased by 17% for an apartment.
- 40% of our renter households pay over 30% of their gross monthly income for housing. 16% of these cost burdened households pay more than 50% of their income on housing costs.
- For every 100 very low-income households in Tacoma there are only 45 affordable units.
- The amount of homeless families and people on our streets unsheltered is rapidly increasing, estimate at about 1,600 persons per night.

The City adopted an Affordable Housing Action Strategy to create new housing, keep existing housing affordable, help community members stay in current housing, and reduce barriers to

individuals accessing housing. The City requests that the State Legislature provide the City Council with enhanced tools for achieving the goals of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy, including local option funding mechanisms for the city-operated Housing Trust Fund and expansion of the multi-family property tax exemption for units that are retained as affordable housing. Additionally, the City will monitor legislation that makes amendments to the Residential Landlord Tenant Act, including just-cause eviction.

## **Transportation**

*Street Maintenance and Preservation:* Prior to the passage of I-976, the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) released a report on city transportation revenue and highlighted Tacoma as a case study. The JTC report states that Tacoma's street maintenance backlog is approximately four times the size of its annual budget. This need is further exacerbated by the passage of I-976, which the City anticipates will reduce revenue by \$2.9 million a year, or 12% of the City's street maintenance budget. The City requests that the Legislature provide enhanced tools for cities to meet local street maintenance needs, including councilmanic local options.

*Passenger-Only Ferry Service:* Authorization for the city to provide passenger-only ferry service, allowing the City to proceed forward with developing a passenger-only ferry investment plan. The development of this plan would advance forward simultaneous to the completion of the PRSC regional study on passenger-only ferry service.

*Project Requests:* As the Legislature develops a revenue package, the City requests that the following projects receive funding:

- **\$650,000 to complete the Access Revision Report to provide an offramp from I-5 to the Tacoma Mall Regional Center**
- \$110 million to fund the \$140 million effort to complete improvements to Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge
- The City requests additional funding to construct the Schuster Parkway Promenade. To finalize project vision, the City requests that \$1 million of the \$4 million appropriated be advanced:
  - o Current: \$2 million in 21-23 and \$2 million in 23-25.
  - o Request: \$3 million in 21-23 and \$1 million in 23-25.

## **Tacoma Dome Investments**

The City requests that the State Legislature allocate \$2 million in capital funding to renovate the men's and women's restrooms and kitchen at the Tacoma Dome.

## **Additional Support/Oppose/Monitor Legislative Issues for General Government**

### **Public Works Department**

*I-5 Corridor:* The Washington State Department of Transportation recently submitted a federal BUILD grant to assess various scenarios to improve performance of I-5 from Marysville to Tumwater. The City supports advancing the work of the I-5 System Partnership, and supports expanding on the work of the proposed BUILD grant to address crossing in other communities. **The City asks that pedestrian and bicycle connectivity crossing the corridor east-west be explored as part of this study.**

*Automated license plate reader technology:* The City supports legislation that regulates automated license plate reader technology but will oppose provisions that would negatively impact the City's parking enforcement program.

*Bicycle Signals:* The City supports proposals to allow the use of bicycle signals in state law. The federal government has allowed use of signals which use a bicycle symbol instead of a circular ball or arrow. Washington defines a signal as being a circular ball or arrow, which means we cannot use other shapes.

### **Tacoma Venues and Events Department**

*Online Ticket Sales:* The City joins other venue operators in opposing legislative proposals that negatively impact the City's ability to sell tickets to events at the Tacoma Dome safely and efficiently through the City's current provider, Ticketmaster.

### **Finance Department**

*Local Tax and Licensing authority:* The City opposes legislative proposals that restrict the City's authority to impose a local business & occupation tax and business license requirements.

*Transportation Network Companies:* The City supports statewide regulation of transportation network companies that establishes a regulatory structure that is similar to or more stringent than the City's existing regulations.

*Utility Lien Authority:* The City opposes any efforts to limit the City's ability to collect delinquent utility payments by placing a lien on properties.

### **Neighborhood & Community Services**

*Homeless Encampments:* The City will monitor any legislation to change or enforce policies addressing homeless encampments on public right-of-way. Additionally, the City will continue to implement the budget proviso language directing WSDOT/City of Tacoma to conduct a pilot program to address homeless encampments.

### **Public Safety/Criminal Justice**

*Criminal Justice Reform Legislation:* The Sentencing Guidelines Commission recently issued a report on reforms to the sentencing grid. The City will monitor any legislative proposals that

result from this report, including bail reform, proposals around “three strikes,” and the death penalty.

*Driver’s License Suspensions:* The City of Tacoma supports legislation that establishes a statewide payment system for traffic fines/penalties, removes driver’s license suspension as a remedy for failure to pay traffic fines/penalties, and decriminalizes driving with a suspended license.

*Property Crime:* The City will monitor proposals that address rising property crimes.

*Firearms:* The City will monitor legislation regulating firearms or other proposals to curb gun violence.

*Jail Contracting:* The City supports legislation clarifying that cities are authorized to contract with tribal governments for jail services.

### **Community & Economic Development**

*Economic Development Tools:* The City supports expanded and new economic development tools, including expanding commercial office space development tools, authorizing tax increment financing, local revitalization financing, municipal infrastructure bank options, and other proposals.

*Accessory Dwelling Units:* The City recently implemented an ordinance related to accessory dwelling units. The City opposes any proposals that conflict with its regulations.

*Changes to House Bill 1406:* The City will monitor any proposals making technical or other changes to House Bill 1406 adopted by the Legislature in 2019. The City will oppose any changes that reduce the amount of revenue that the City would be allocated to meet the community’s pressing affordable housing needs.

*Pierce County Mayoral Roundtable on Affordability:* The City supports the efforts of the Pierce County Mayoral Roundtable on Affordability to advocate for policies that keep housing attainable and encourage greater jobs/housing balance in the South Sound region.

### **Energy & Environment**

*Clean Fuel Standard:* The City supports establishing a statewide clean fuel standard.

*Plastic Bag Ban:* The City supports a statewide plastic bag ban.

*Greenhouse Gas Goals:* The City supports statewide efforts to achieve the Paris Climate Accord emission reduction goals and to regularly monitor our progress.

*Product Stewardship and Source Reduction:* The City supports legislation that helps prevent waste and creates opportunities for reuse and recycling markets.

*Clean Transportation and Buildings:* The City supports legislation that encourages more fuel-efficient and alternative-fuel vehicles and clean, healthy, cost effective buildings.

## **Tacoma Public Libraries**

*Firearms in Public Spaces:* Tacoma Public Libraries opposes legislation that would require library employees to enforce regulations prohibiting firearms in public spaces.

*Challenges to Intellectual Freedom:* Tacoma Public Libraries opposes legislation that restricts intellectual freedom.

*Protecting Library Workers:* Tacoma Public Libraries supports protecting library employees in the same manner as all public sector employees (RCW 9A.36.031).

**Metro Parks Tacoma** – The City supports the legislative efforts of Metro Parks Tacoma. Specifically, the City supports:

*Parks and Recreation Funding:* The City supports Metro Parks request to study and identify flexible operating revenues for local parks and recreation agencies, including supporting a bill that would allow parks and recreation agencies to take a .01 percent sales tax increase to their voters.

*Park in South East/Central Tacoma:* The City joins Metro Parks Tacoma in requesting capital funding for the development of a park in South East/Central Tacoma in honor of former Senator Rosa Franklin.

*Foss Waterway Development Authority:* The City joins Metro Parks Tacoma in requesting capital funding for the development of a regional human power boating facility on the Eastside of Foss Waterway.

*Titlow Park Culvert:* The City supports Metro Parks Tacoma in requesting \$1 million in transportation funding for the full design and permitting of the Titlow lagoon restoration BNSF Rail bridge project.

**Tacoma Public Schools** – The City supports the legislative efforts of Tacoma Public Schools, including:

- Funding for Tacoma Public School's Whole Child effort
- Modifying the prototypical school model for low-income schools
- Funding special education and early learning
- Funding the State Employee Benefits Board
- Modifying the construction bond threshold to a simple majority rather than super majority, and changing the state construction formula to allow Tacoma Public Schools to receive funding

**Tacoma Housing Authority**—The City supports the legislative efforts of Tacoma Housing Authority. Specifically, the City supports:

*Arlington Drive Campus:* The City supports legislative requests and appropriations that support the construction and operation of Tacoma Housing Authority's Arlington Drive Campus to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

## **TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES**

### **Tacoma Power**

*Carbon reduction policies:* Washington lawmakers have indicated that they will continue to focus on legislative solutions aimed at decarbonizing Washington State's economy. TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.

*Support equal treatment of hydropower:* Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. During the 2019 Legislative Session, other renewable generating resources were given special tax treatment. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.

### **Tacoma Water**

*Support the Public Works Trust Fund:* More than 6.2 million Washington State residents, 85 percent of the state's population, get their drinking water from public water systems. Nationally, \$4.8 trillion needs to be invested over the next 20 years to support a resilient system and keep up with aging water infrastructure. The Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) is a crucial funding program for many communities around our state providing low-interest loans to help maintain vital public infrastructure. TPU supports public water systems and city partners in their request to fully restore funding to the PWTF.

*Support improvements to the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act:* The Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act, also referred to as the "Call Before You Dig Law," governs safe excavation practices near underground utility facilities. TPU supports the interim work of the Dig Law Safety Committee to bring forward four changes to update the current law.

### **Tacoma Rail**

*Support funding for East End Locomotive Facility:* The State of Washington administers both a grant program and a loan program designed to support freight rail capital needs. Tacoma Rail has applied for one project under the Freight Rail Assistance Program. If awarded, the funds would be used to help update the East End Locomotive Facility.





# CITY MANAGER PERFORMANCE CHECK-IN

December 2019

## OVERVIEW

The City Council evaluates the City Manager's performance on a yearly basis. To help guide the City Manager's work during the performance year, the Council provides feedback on performance to date, along with direction for future performance.

Mayor Woodards and Council

# Reference

This section covers the performance ratings and summary comments from the 2018-2019 performance review.

## **Section 1. Assisting Council with Policy Making Role**

Overall score: 3.53

The City Manager does a great job at providing information in a timely manner. She plans ahead and anticipates problems. She is practical and creative, and is good at coming up with solutions.

The City Manager does a tremendous job assessing the requests of the Council and integrating them with department priorities and capacity. With the hiring of the new Assistants to the City Manager, I believe the City Manager will be able to strengthen her Office's ability to coordinate and respond to policy requests.

As one means of utilizing this expanded capacity and in accordance with direction from the Council's 2019 work session, the Council would like the City Manager to provide a list back to Councilmembers of what issues they shared with her and how they were dealt with as to better track progress.

## **Section 2. Organization Performance and Internal Administration**

Overall score: 3.59

Elizabeth has an innate ability to see the big picture and to assist policy makers in achieving their desired outcomes through strategic implementation throughout the organization.

The City Manager is a wonderful manager and leader for the staff. She does a good job managing the budget and making sure the distribution of funds is in alignment with our policy goals. She has a strong understanding of the issues and their long-term implications.

This year, with the addition of two Assistant to the City Manager positions, this will strengthen her ability to coordinate actions throughout the organization.

## **Section 3. Council Directives**

Overall score: 3.13

Many of the Council directives are progressing as expected. The Council recognizes that the directives are long-term in nature, and we encourage the City Manager to continue to make progress on them. The strategy for affordable housing is comprehensive, thoughtful, and successful. Implementation of the strategy will be a key to success.

While public safety efforts are improving, additional effort needs to be exerted in this area.

## **Section 4. External Relations**

Overall score: 3.53

The City Manager does a great job representing the City with other agencies. She is smart, thorough, and well-respected. Swift updates to situations as they arise along with media talking points is appreciated.

The City Manager does a good job at letting the Council take the lead on policy level decisions while she focuses on City administration. For example, the coordination of the realignment of domestic violence

services provided in Pierce County in partnership with the Pierce County Executive's office is an example of how she is working to better leverage our external relationships.

The Council would like to see more marketing of the City's 311 services and some expanded focus on communications (engagement with more segments of the community and more interactions with the media).

### **Section 5. Leadership Competencies**

Overall score: 3.93

This is an area where Elizabeth excels. Elizabeth has developed an expertise and passion for the work of a City Manager. She consistently makes herself accessible to the Council and the community at large. She is candid and forthright and has developed skills for adhering to the highest standards of professionalism and credibility. She adapts to changing environments and conditions. Under this kind of uncertainty, she is able to develop solid solutions in response to Council and community requests as well as emerging situations.

The City Manager has been instrumental in supporting the improved relationship with the Puyallup Tribe. The City Manager fosters a great positivity for our City government.

### **Section 6. Narrative Evaluation**

What are the City Manager's strengths as demonstrated during the performance period?

- The City Manager is a great manager and an exceptional leader. She exemplifies professionalism, respect, honesty, and transparency. She knows the City and works extremely hard to create and implement solutions that work. She is quick to recognize when changes need to be made and work to implement them. She demonstrates ethical behavior, and is responsive and receptive to Council feedback.
- In this review cycle, City Manager Pauli enhanced coordination and outreach with TPU to successfully engage the public and pass a 2019-2020 biennial budget that directly aligns with Council priorities. She also enhanced collaboration with TPU on government relations.
- Elizabeth has the ability to interact with staff, Council, and community members in a straightforward and respectful manner even under intense pressure that is helpful to forwarding city objectives and relationships.
- Her leadership has led to staff meeting several goals. She deserves praise for completion of the processes in hiring two new Assistants to the City Manager and a new Fire Chief. It is evident that she is working to both proactively develop talent throughout the organization as well as to reward the skills and talent of existing employees.
- We appreciate the City Manager's response to providing clear goals in alignment with Tacoma 2025 for this year's evaluation.

Where do you see the most opportunity for improvement? What constructive feedback or assistance can you offer the City Manager?

- The Council encourages the City Manager to be creative in resolving issues in two areas: Public safety and homelessness. Implementation of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy should also be prioritized.
- The City Manager should utilize the expanded staff capacity in her office to continue to improve coordination of Council policy objectives.

- Continue to take seriously structures and communication tools to keep the community and the Council updated on the Council directives and the Tacoma 2025 progress.
- Continue to advance her own skills as she did this year through pursuing professional development opportunities and networks through the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and local government leader conferences.
- While she has taken steps to add needed staff capacity in the City Manager's Office, she should continue to evaluate the number of her direct reports.

## Performance Check-in

1. What is going well? What projects are on track or surpassing expectations?
2. What are some opportunities for improvement? In what areas would you like to see more progress?
3. Overall, is progress being made?  
Check one:  
Progress is exceeding my expectations ☐  
Progress is ahead of expectations ☐  
Progress is on track ☐  
Some progress has been made ☐  
Not enough progress is being made ☐
4. Looking forward to the next six months (December to May), in addition to the areas listed in the Reference section, what should the City Manager focus on?

**City of Tacoma 2019  
City Council Forecast Schedule**

Date	Meeting	Subject	Department	Background
December 10, 2019	Joint Utility Board Study Session (TMBN 16, Noon)	City-wide Draft Legislative Agendas	TPU/GG Government Relations	TPU and GG Staff will share the proposed Federal and State Legislative Agendas for review prior to Council consideration.
	City Council Study Session (TMBN 16, approximately 1:30 p.m.)	Executive Session - City Manager's Mid-Year Performance Review	Mayor and Council Members	
		LID Appeal (approximately 1:30 p.m.)	HEX/Appellant	
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	*Resolution to establish the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma *Ordinance for the Neighborhood Council Program Review First Reading	CMO NCS	
December 17, 2019	City Council Study Session (TMB Council Chambers, Noon)	Update on the City Insurance Program	Risk Mgt, Finance	Risk Manager Saada Gegoux will provide an update on the various City Procured Insurance Policies and information on the City's Third Party Liability Claims Fund.
	City Council Meeting (TMB Council Chambers, 5:00 PM)	Ordinance for the Neighborhood Council Program Review Final Reading	NCS	
December 26, 2019	<b>CANCELLED</b> <b>** Please note there will not be a meeting on December 31, 2019. (Due to the holiday, this meeting will be moved to next business day, January 2, 2020 or cancelled)</b>			

**\*\* Please note there will not be a meeting on December 31, 2019 (Due to the holiday, this meeting will be moved to next business day, January 2, 2020, or cancelled.)**



Community Vitality and Safety			
<b>Committee Members:</b> Blocker (Chair), Beale, Thoms, Ushka, Alternate-Hunter <b>Executive Liaison:</b> Linda Stewart; <b>Staff Support -</b> Bucoda Warren		<b>2nd and 4th Thursdays</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> <b>Room 248</b>	<b>CBC Assignments:</b> • Citizen Police Advisory Committee • Human Services Commission • Human Rights Commission • Housing Authority • Commission on Disabilities • Library Board • Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority
<b>December 12, 2019</b>	Community Engagement (Informational)	Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications; Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Manager	
	Project Peace (Informational)	Ed Wade, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department; and Korbett Mosesly, Management Analyst, OEHR	An update of the Project Peace youth outreach meetings and executive team retreat.
<b>December 26, 2019</b>	Canceled		

		<b>Economic Development Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Members:</b> Thoms (Chair), Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka Alternate-Beale <b>Executive Liaison:</b> Tadd Wille; <b>Staff Support -</b> Lynda Foster		<b>2nd, 4th, and 5th Tuesdays</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Room 248</b>	<b>CBC Assignments:</b> •Tacoma Arts Commission •Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District •Foss Waterway •City Events and Recognition Committee
<b>December 10, 2019</b>	Food innovation	Carol Wolfe, Community and Economic Development Department	Presentation on Tacoma Pierce County Health Departments' work on food equity and an informational briefing on food innovation models
	Tacoma Economic Development Strategic Plan	Jeff Robinson, Community and Economic Development Director	The major components of the recently completed economic development strategic plan will be presented.
	Lead Agency Discussion Informational Briefing	Steve Victor, City Attorney's Office, and Shirley Shultz, Planning and Development Services	Briefing on project review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), with emphasis on the role and responsibilities of a project's SEPA lead agency, and information on the differences between SEPA review, permitting requirements and criteria, and jurisdictional differences between the SEPA lead and agency and other permitting agencies involved in a project.
	CED & PDS Collaboration/Communication opportunities with EDC	Jeff Robinson, Community and Economic Development Director, and Peter Huffman, Planning & Development Services	
<b>Future</b>			
<b>December 24, 2019</b>	Cancelled		
<b>December 31, 2019</b>	Cancelled		

**Government Performance and Finance Committee**

**Committee Members:** Ibsen (Chair), Blocker, Hunter, Mello, Alternate-Thoms  
**Executive Liaison:** Andy Cherullo; Staff Support - Latasha Ware

**1st and 3rd Tuesday**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Room 248**

**CBC Assignments:** •Public Utility Board •Board of Ethics •Audit  
Advisory Board •Civil Service Board

**December 17, 2019**

Joint GPFC Audit Advisory

Susan Calderon, Assistant Finance Director/Controller

2019 Moss Adams entrance conference

Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee			
<b>Committee Members:</b> Mello (Chair), Beale, Ibsen, McCarthy, Alternate-Hunter <b>Executive Liaison:</b> Kurtis Kingsolver; <b>Staff Support -</b> Claire Goodwin		<b>1st and 3rd Wednesdays</b> 4:30 p.m. Room 248	<b>CBC Assignments:</b> •Sustainable Tacoma Commission •Planning Commission •Landmarks Preservation Commission •Board of Building Appeals •Transportation Commission
	Topic	Presenters	Description
December 18, 2019 - Rescheduled to 3pm	Pierce Transit's Long Range Plan, Partnerships with the City, and Overview of WSDOT's Intersection Change Evaluation	Alex Mather, Government and Community Relations Officer, Pierce Transit; Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services Division Manager; and Manuel Abarca, Olympic Region Traffic Design Engineer, WSDOT	Presentation on Pierce Transit's long-range plan, bus rapid transit partnerships, issues around upzoning, future partnerships with the City, and how the City ensures correct zoning in the future. Brief overview on the Intersection Change Evaluation.
	Construction Demolition Reuse and Recycling	Jim Parvey and Beth Jarot, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability; and Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Management Division Manager	Presentation on incentivizing recycling construction materials.