



# City of Tacoma

## Community Vitality and Safety

### Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

November 14, 2019

4:30 PM

---

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

#### Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

**Present:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Thoms

**Absent:** 1 - Ushka

Council Member Ushka arrived at 4:38 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes

1. [19-1297](#) Approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting

**MOTION:** Council Member Beale moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Thoms.

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Thoms

**Absent:** 1 - Ushka

#### Briefing Items

2. [19-1298](#) Citizen Police Advisory Committee Interviews  
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 4:33 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, informed the Committee they will be interviewing three applicants and considering one written response from Phil Mocek, who was unable to attend the

interviews. She stated that Elizabeth Pew will not be interviewing, as she was recommended for appointment on the Tacoma Arts Commission, and provided information regarding vacancies on the Citizen Police Advisory Committee.

Council Member Ushka arrived here, at 4:38 p.m.

The Committee interviewed Alex Strautman and Gary Foreman, and reviewed one written response.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of vacancies; lack of representation from the “Council District 4”, “Council District 5”, and “Youth” positions; why applicants were not able to make the interviews; and having staff go out for more applicants.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to recommend the reappointment of Alex Strautman to the “At-Large No. 3” position to serve a three-year term, effective January 1, 2020, to expire December 31, 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

3. [19-1299](#)

Code Compliance Pilot Project Update  
[Keith Williams, Code Compliance Supervisor,  
Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:51 p.m., Keith Williams, Code Compliance Supervisor, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), introduced Kristin Ely, Management Analyst II, NCS, and presented the Code Compliance Pilot Project update, including an overview, project outcomes, and case evaluation criteria. Together, they reviewed significant lessons learned, noting the top 15 list, the Yard Assistance and Resources for Disabled and Elderly (YARD) program, and House Bill 2057. Mr. Williams reviewed the number of preexisting cases that were closed and new cases that were opened and closed during the pilot project timeframe, positive outcomes, the goal to reduce the length of code compliance cases in 2019, improvements made to reach that goal, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding eligibility of YARD clients, how people found

out about the discount project, outreach, repeat offenders versus unique cases, expectation of future violations, discretionary actions while applying the nuisance and building code, whether the pilot program is budgeted to continue, receivership program breakdown and timeline, and property acquisition and rehabilitation.

4. [19-1300](#)

Chronic Nuisance Code Implementation Update

[Danielle Larson, Tax and License Manager, Finance, and Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney]

At approximately 5:25 p.m., Danielle Larson, Tax and License Manager, Finance, introduced Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, and presented background regarding the Chronic Nuisance code and amendments made in October 2018. Mr. Echterling reviewed the implementation of the code, including one location that has been declared a “chronic nuisance property”, engagement with that property, requirements, and properties that were considered for chronic nuisance code but not declared as such.

Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the calls for service, if noise qualifies as a nuisance violation, notifying new owners and potential owners of a chronic nuisance designation during property sales and potential property sales, an internal review process, and the correction agreement.

5. [19-1302](#)

Co-Responder Program Update

[Shawn Gustason, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department]

At approximately 5:44 p.m., Shawn Gustason, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), introduced Laura Morris, Program Director, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), and presented the Co-Responder Program update, including implementation of the program, the development of the Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs), the contracted provider, and the merge of TPD mental health related calls and extended case management. Ms. Morris outlined how DCRs can become City employees and the State’s response. Mr. Gustason reviewed the contract with MultiCare and the merge of TFD and TPD programs. Linda Stewart, Director, NCS, presented information regarding benefits of the collaboration, including the fiscal savings and effectiveness.

Discussion ensued regarding the safe station and the effect the merger will have on it, addressing community and patients’ needs, how DCRs are embedded in TPD, and how the response team is related to the DCRs.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

6.     [19-1301](#)     November 28, 2019 - Cancelled  
December 12, 2019 - Community Engagement and Project Peace  
December 26, 2019 - Cancelled

Bucoda Warren, Committee Liaison, stated the November 28, 2019 meeting has been cancelled, and the next meeting will be on December 12, 2019 and will include presentations on community engagement and Project Peace.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

---

Keith Blocker, Chair

---

Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office