



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 Passcode: 896569

May 16, 2023

3:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Deputy Mayor Walker called the special meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Hines

Council Member Hines arrived at 3:07 p.m.

Mayor Woodards participated virtually.

Briefing Item

1. [23-0507](#) Blake Decision - State and Local Options

At approximately 3:01 p.m., City Attorney Bill Fosbre presented state and local options related to the Washington Supreme Court's State V. Blake decision, including passage of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5536 (E2SSB 5536) earlier today; background, noting the temporary law was set to expire July 1, 2023; local control related to drug possession or use; and the scope of E2SSB 5536, noting that the City must adopt the new law into the Tacoma Municipal Code by reference to be used in Tacoma Municipal Court proceedings. Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer, City Manager's Office, continued by providing additional background on previous City Council discussions; a comparison of different versions of E2SSB 5536 before its final passage; and the state legislative process.

Council Member Hines arrived here, at 3:07 p.m.

Hallum concluded by outlining issues that E2SSB 5536 resolved, including criminal possession; diversion programs; expanding the definition of

essential public facilities to include treatment facilities; dedicated funding for treatment, support, residences, and alternative response programs; and an emergency clause regarding the effective date.

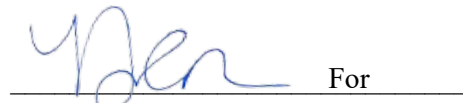
Discussion ensued regarding implementation timelines; definitions; diversionary and treatment courts; court jurisdictions; vacating convictions, noting the process, access, and education; treatment services, noting underserved areas, capacity, priorities, and decisions about where they are located; essential facilities, noting local control, opioid treatment centers, and unincorporated areas; impacts of multiple convictions and diversion options; access to treatment outside the criminal justice system; wider responses to the drug epidemic; funding sources for housing; data collection; enforcement; role of the Tacoma-Pierce County Opioid Task Force; public perception and communications; staffing; and a letter from the City Council expressing support for the legislature to pass a measure, which is on tonight's meeting agenda for consideration.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

 For

Doris Sorum, City Clerk