



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

August 10, 2017

4:30 PM

Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Marty Campbell,
Joe Lonergan, Lauren Walker Lee, Ryan Mello (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Blocker called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present: 4 - Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan and Walker Lee

Briefing Items

1. 17-0801 TFD Mid-Year Review and Aid Vehicle Implementation
[Tory Green, Deputy Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department; Faith Mueller, Deputy Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department]

At approximately 4:36 p.m., Jim Duggan, Fire Chief, introduced Tory Green and Faith Mueller, Deputy Fire Chiefs. Deputy Chief Green presented incident data for fire and emergency medical services, stating the number of fires is approximately where it was in previous years and the emergency medical services (EMS) calls continue to rise, which is a trend across the nation due to increase in population, increase in aging populations, and an increase in the number of individuals without primary insurance or care. Deputy Chief Green noted calls in other categories continue to slightly increase as well. He stated the overall call volume increased approximately 19 percent from 2013 to 2016. Deputy Chiefs Green and Mueller then provided updates on 2017 initiatives: decrease loss of life and property from fire, decrease the use of EMS for non-emergency incidents, increase departmental diversity to reflect the community, decrease false alarm activity, and Station 13 and 15 aid vehicle implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding the fire stations and service for the south end, Station 15 staffing and aid vehicles, the incident data presented and what it means in real application, and why incident data does not always reflect the resources dispatched.

2. 17-0802 Immigrant Defense Fund
[Keith Blocker, Council Member, City Council]

At approximately 4:59 p.m., Chair Blocker stated the Committee would discuss an Immigrant Defense Fund and highlighted three large policy questions: who would be qualified to access dollars from such a fund, how will the fund be administered, and what is the source of the funding. He stated criteria to be considered include income, residency, criminal history, prior deportation history, the structure of the fund and program, evaluation metrics, staff and resources, funding sources and amount of City contributions, one time versus ongoing expenditures, community engagement, and donation based funding. Chair Blocker also provided information on the City of Seattle's policy and actions in these three areas and stated, in speaking with the City Manager, the initial thought is to put seed money towards starting an immigrant defense fund with the hope that public and private partners will then contribute funding as well.

Discussion ensued regarding how this request fits with the established process for human services funding where the community is already supporting services and programs and the City is not the sole funding source; if there is a way to make this less necessary by helping people through other means or programs; the need for funding for legal services and other needs at the Northwest Detention Center, as well as the need for legal services for other initiatives or the general community; how to engage with government, corporate, and community partners; what the program staffing would look like and case load for attorneys; and the need to explore this further.

Rebecca Boydston, City Council Assistant, asked members of the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force in attendance to introduce themselves: Tim Warden-Hertz, Directing Attorney for the Tacoma office of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; Amanda DeShazo, Pierce County Central Labor Council; Jason Scales, Client Services Director of the Tacoma Community House; and Liesl Santkuyl, College Success Foundation. Ms. Boydston requested the Task Force provide an overview of the funding recommendation for a legal defense fund and services. Mr. Warden-Hertz stated 50 to 100 Tacoma residents are detained at the Northwest Detention Center every year, and Pierce County is about double. He stated there are two funding amounts in the recommendations, \$440,000 for direct representation for every one of those 50 to 100 Tacoma residents, and a funding option for case assessments and direct representation of approximately 30 cases.

Discussion continued regarding the requested funding, what services it would cover, City funding processes for human services, grant or seed money versus matching funds, outcome-based evaluations and metrics, how the City of Seattle fund works, and next steps in the process.

Public comment was heard from:

1. Amanda DeShazo, Pierce County Central Labor Council
2. Dean Allsopp, Latinx Unidos of the South Sound
3. Liesl Santkuy, College Success Foundation and Latinx Unidos of the South Sound
4. Laurie Davenport, Volunteer Legal Services
5. Mark Morzol, Volunteer Legal Services
6. Jason Scales, Tacoma Community House
7. Janet Gwilym, Kids in Need of Defense

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. 17-0806 August 24, 2017 - Neighborhood Council Program Review, Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities Interviews, and Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Interviews

Will Suarez, Committee Liaison, stated on August 24, 2017, there will be a Neighborhood Council Program review and interviews for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities and the Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority. He stated on September 14, 2017, the Committee will discuss affordable housing program strategies.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

Public comment was heard earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.


Keith Blocker, Chair


Doris Sorum, City Clerk's Office