



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

June 10, 2021

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker,
Chris Beale, John Hines, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Beale, Blocker, Hines and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0577](#)

Litter Pollution Prevention Project

[Kate Waind, Project Specialist, Environmental Services]

At approximately 4:34 p.m., Kate Waind, Project Specialist, Environmental Services, gave a presentation on the Litter Pollution Prevention Project, including an introduction; an overview, noting the nine schools that participated, how data was collected and used, and how students participated; and project results, noting the number of pieces of litter observed, mapping the litter location, a breakdown of litter types, and proposed student solutions.

Discussion ensued regarding the work of students, getting more schools involved, forwarding the list of other ideas, and why school districts two and three did not participate.

2. [21-0578](#) Blight Removal Update
[Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 4:59 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), gave a presentation on blight removal, including an overview; adopt a spot and neighborhood litter patrol; the Purple Bag Pilot Program; the pilot HIRE Program; encampment debris removal; vendor performance and encampment debris removal, noting numerous locations; and use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Discussion ensued regarding a framework for a city-wide clean-up, the Seattle Clean City Initiative, regular neighborhood clean-ups, proliferation of single use items, a long term clean-up plan, the bureaucracy of blight removal, and streamlining who is responsible for clean-up and the timeline of that process.

At approximately 5:07 p.m., Reid Bennion, Lead Management Analyst, Finance, spoke on the spending of ARPA funds.

Discussion continued regarding the Purple Bag Program; the pilot HIRE Program; the amount of debris removed; and how long Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act funding will last.

3. [21-0579](#) Graffiti Removal Program Update
[Keegan Buckley, Program Development Specialist; Vicky McLaurin, Community Services Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 5:18 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, (NCS), introduced Keegan Buckley, Program Development Specialist, and Vicky McLaurin, Community Services Manager, NCS. Ms. Buckley and Ms. McLaurin gave a presentation on the Graffiti Removal Program, including an overview; background, noting the number of graffiti code cases from 2016 through 2021; health, equity & sustainability analysis; and strategy.

Discussion ensued regarding equity and the origins of graffiti; partnering with the Washington State Department of Transportation; funding; graffiti along the highways; what is art versus graffiti; that art is less likely to be tagged over; the number of graffiti removals per year; and that graffiti removal is free to businesses and residents.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [21-0580](#) June 24, 2021 - Washington House Bill 1590

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on June 24, 2021, and will include a presentation on Washington House Bill (HB) 1590, and that the July 8, 2021, meeting schedule is currently open. He concluded by stating the July 22, 2021, meeting will include an update from Tacoma Public Libraries, an update on code compliance, and a tentative update on community trauma response.

Discussion ensued about HB 1590, next steps for affordable housing policy, and the meeting on July 8, 2021.

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 5:41 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office