



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 823 7010 6303

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/82370106303 Passcode: 614650

November 18, 2021

4:50 PM

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Chair Ushka called the special meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Hines, and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Beale

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

Item No. 2 was addressed before Item No. 1.

2. [21-1142](#)

Transformation Update

[Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager]

At approximately 5:01 p.m., Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, presented a transformation update, including an overview, a proposed timeline, work done by Deputy Mayor Blocker and Council Member Ushka, and proposed dates and topics of upcoming updates.

Discussion ensued regarding a request for a list of upcoming topics and dates.

1. [21-1141](#)

Overview of Options to Address Camping in the City

[Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office]

At approximately 5:05 p.m., Chair Ushka provided an overview of the current state of homelessness in the City, and introduced Keith Echterling, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office. Mr. Echterling presented options to address unlawful camping in the City, including an overview; background

information; issues; Martin v. City of Boise; considerations and options, noting pros and cons; a comparison of proposals, noting the 2019 expired Ordinance, the original Ordinance, Ordinance No. 28756, advocate feedback, and staff recommendations; encampment removal policy; the health, equity, and sustainability analysis.

Discussion ensued regarding alternatives to a camping ban, what happens when shelter is refused, who the advocates are for people experiencing homelessness, therapeutic courts specific to those experiencing homelessness, a request for more time to address this issue, alternatives proposed by Council Member Thoms, at what point camping is considered unlawful, what a day-time camping ban would look like, identifying and prohibiting camping in certain parts of the City, potential reasons why homeless encampments are located where they are, shelter capacity, low barrier sites, assessing what criteria could be made illegal, enforcement when vacant beds are available, American Rescue Plan Act funding, broadening the conversation to other community organizations, whether the focus should be on moving people into shelter or helping people and businesses impacted by encampments around them, that Pierce County is looking at out of state examples for options to move forward, that most shelters currently available in Pierce County are in Tacoma, recent changes in Pierce County government, a request for staff to outline outreach options and next steps, potential dates for future discussions, and racial equity.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-1143](#) December 9, 2021 - Transformation Update
December 23, 2021 - Cancelled

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on December 9, 2021, and will include further discussion on options to address unlawful camping in the City and a transformation update. Mr. Richardson further stated that the December 23, 2021, meeting has been cancelled.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Angela, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.
2. Kristina Maritzak, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.
3. Kristen Wynne, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.
4. Esther Day, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.
5. Daisha Gomillion, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.
6. Steve Jones, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.

7. Maureen Howard, speaking on options to address unlawful camping.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office