



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

May 26, 2022

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Keith Blocker, Kiara Daniels,
Sarah Rumbaugh, John Hines (alternate)

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Blocker, Daniels, Rumbaugh and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0610](#) Firearms and Ammunition Tax
[Andy Cherullo, Director; Danielle Larson, Tax and License Manager, Finance]

At approximately 4:37 p.m., Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, provided opening remarks on the City's proposed firearm and ammunition tax, and introduced Eric Madfis, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Washington Tacoma (UWT). Madfis provided introductory remarks and introduced Randy Myers and Jeff Cohen, Associate Professors of Criminal Justice, UWT. Cruz presented evidence-based principles and practices for youth gun violence prevention and intervention, including increased crime and violence in Tacoma; and the evidence-based principles, noting the importance of community-led, trauma-informed, restorative, and holistic principles. Myers outlined community-based prevention and intervention; and successful and promising practices for prevention and intervention, noting hospital-based violence intervention, employment programs for young people, and early intervention programs for young children and their families. Cohen continued by reviewing successful and promising practices in schools, noting restorative school discipline, "whole-school" approaches, and trauma-sensitive schools. Hawes and Cruz concluded by outlining next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding progress the City has made; available statistics of expelling and suspending students from school; grants; public safety officers in schools and how its seen as a deterrent; restorative versus punitive actions; gun violence response at the general level; generating funding, support, and outreach for organizations dealing with gun violence issues; the use of the firearm and ammunition tax revenue; the demographics covered by youth gun violence; and the role of Tacoma Public Schools.

Cherullo then presented on the firearms and ammunition tax and community engagement, including an overview; background; and issues, noting an executive summary of community feedback, and major themes of community feedback.

Discussion continued regarding the sample size of the survey, opportunities to conduct the survey again, how events can change people's opinions, patterns of violence within the City, recent state and federal action regarding gun violence, and historic gun sale patterns.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

2. [22-0611](#) June 9, 2022 - Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness
June 23, 2022 - Feasibility Study for Restoring Library Services to the
Eastside and Hilltop Neighborhoods: Final Report

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting will be on June 9, 2022, and will include a presentation on the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, and the June 23, 2022, meeting will include the final report on the feasibility study for restoring Tacoma Public Library services to the Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Rumbaugh stated that she attended the Human Rights Commission meeting, where the Commission had a discussion and lively debate on fair housing work, and the appeal process.

Council Member Daniels stated that she attended the Mayor's Youth Commission meeting, where the Commission discussed youth safety, addressing gun violence, and increased violence during the summer months.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.



Catherine Ushka, Chair



Katie Foster, City Clerk's Office