



# City of Tacoma

## Human Services Commission

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

6:00 p.m.

### Virtual and In-Person Meeting Minutes

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**Members Present:** Chair Naomi Wilson, Vice Chair Marvin Cooks, Secretary Andee Walton, Laura Badeaux, Doris Brown, Kristi Coyne, Connie Ladenburg, and Carlos Lugo-Gonzalez

**Members Absent:** Kimberly Ellefson, Noemi Cagatin-Porter, and Nikki Singh

**Staff Present:** Vicky McLaurin, Interim Assistant Director (NCS)

**1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:02**

- Meeting chaired by Chair Wilson.
- Roll call.

**2. Approval of the April agenda at 6:05**

- Motioned by Commissioner Singh to approve, seconded by Commissioner Coyne. Approved unanimously.

**3. Review/Approval of March minutes at 6:06**

- Commissioner Coyne requests amendment to item 3.
- Motioned by Commissioner Coyne to approve minutes and Commissioner Ladenburg seconded. Approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comment at 6:07**

- No written public comments received.

**5. Homeless Point-In-Time Count at 6:08**

- Presented by Jeff Rodgers, Program Specialist, Pierce County.
  - i. Overview of current count of households in and out of homes with breakdown of types of disabilities within population.
  - ii. All head count data can be located on Pierce County website.
  - iii. Chair Wilson and Commissioner Ladenburg inquire about data sets shown on presentation.
    1. Explanation: Infographic's current settings displays are automatic; however can inquire as to why; and full data can be found on County's website.
  - iv. Chair Wilson asks if there is a known reason for concentrated homelessness within city limits.
    1. Explanation: Most human services are within city limits.
  - v. Commissioner Ladenburg asks what The City is doing with this data.
    1. Answer: Point-in-time data is only a snapshot and an addition to the process within the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, on which The City sits.
    2. Commissioner Ladenburg comments on utility of crisis response system data as a metric.



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### 6. Inclement Weather Update at 6:42

- Presented by Caleb Carbone, Systems and Service Manager, Homeless Strategy.
  - i. Backshot of last year's methodology to heat stress and poor air quality response.
    1. Response is determined according to tiers by temperature and smog index, though, threshold is flexible; considering actual perception to the human body of the heat or air quality over strict adherence to rubric.
      - a. Responses include cooling center, nighttime relief, and day centers with HVAC.
      - b. Comparisons of City's response to other cities is conducted to check for effectiveness. As of now, the heat index tool is in alignment with the needed response.
    2. Commissioner Ladenburg asks if the response is for sheltered and/or unsheltered populations.
      - a. Answer: Both.
    3. Commissioner Ladenburg asks how locations for cooling centers are chosen.
      - a. Answer: Depends on locations interested in providing spaces. Examples of current partnerships, such as Tacoma libraries and RISE are provided.
    4. Chair Wilson asks if there is a rubric for which populations are contacted first.
      - a. Answer: Outreach occurs in terms of zones.
    5. Chair Wilson expresses concern for less dense populations.
      - a. Explanation: Outreach and volunteers are used to reach sparse populations, with knowledge in mind that not everyone is ready to be a part of the shelter system.
    6. Chair Wilson inquires about pet policies for shelters and cooling centers.
      - a. Answer: pet allowance varies per organization due to different insurance coverages, though emergency shelters do permit dogs and there exist alternatives such as the Humane Society and temporary fostering.
    7. Secretary Walton expresses gratitude for the data presented and desire to share information with more community members.
      - a. Caleb Carbone and Chair Wilson respond that The City is willing to present data in shared spaces, upon request, and encourage such.

### 7. Agenda Amendment: Nominee Discussion at 7:02

- Welcome of new Commissioner to be re-scheduled upon the return of Commissioner Ellefson.
- Decision made to nominate Commissioners for positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary to be postponed to July meeting due to technical difficulties.

### 8. Review and Excuse Absences at 7:11

- All in favor of excusing Commissioners Singh and Ellefson.

### 9. Good of the Order at 7:27.



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- Presented Walton expresses concern for the future attendance of local citizens in neighborhood surrounding Human Services who have expressed to her negative sentiments towards presence of crime due to local sheltered population.
  - i. Backshot Walton expresses concern for the future attendance of local citizens in neighborhood surrounding Human Services who have expressed to her negative sentiments towards presence of crime due to local sheltered population.
  - ii. Chair Wilson welcomes concerned citizens to apply for vacancies within HSC.
- Vicky McLaurin announces the need for a few commissioners to review small grant application that will assist in capacity building for smaller agencies, with focus on BIPOC organizations and navigating the bureaucracy. Dates to be announced.

### 10. Closing Comments at 7:38

- Chair Wilson adjourns at 7:38.