**Minutes**

**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, July 8, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Remote meeting via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, Chair, Tacoma Public Schools  
Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma

Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma

Marty Campbell, Pierce County + Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Ryan Mello, Pierce County

Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma

Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma

Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Joshua Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Louis Cooper, Port of Tacoma

Leslie Barstow, Port of Tacoma

Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma

Gerard Fiola, Port of Tacoma

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

Priscilla Lisicich, Safe Streets

Wanda Rochelle, Safe Streets

Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma

Norinda Rosario Yancey, Metro Parks Tacoma

Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma

Amy Johnson, Metro Parks Tacoma

Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma

Joe Brady, Metro Parks Tacoma

Hollie Rogge, Metro Parks Tacoma

Chrisy Vindivich, City of Tacoma

Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma

Carole Wolfe, City of Tacoma

Rebecca Japhet, Pierce Transit

Rodney Chandler, Pierce Transit

Evan Koepfler, Pierce County

Chelsea Talbert, Pierce County

William Bridges, Pierce County

Chief Avery Moore, Tacoma Police Department

Asst. Chief Paul Junger, Tacoma Police Department

Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions

**INTRODUCTION**

Chair Bonbright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of June 10, 2022, be approved as presented; passed unanimously.

Chair Bonbrightthanked Pierce Transit for providing detailed meeting minutes for the June meeting.

**PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP / DIRECTION:**

Chair Bonbright stated that a ‘previous meeting recap’ will now be added as a standing agenda item to JMAC agendas.

Chair Bonbright reminded the committee that at last month’s meeting Youth Employment Partnerships and Pipelines were discussed. The committee discussion along with a panel of guests focused on the need and benefit for each JMAC represented agency to build a budget that will include funding for hiring interns. Chair Bonbright commented that Dr. Josh Garcia with Tacoma Public Schools was inspired by the conversation in June, and after the meeting asked if he could propose a 2-5-3 Youth Employment Challenge for participating JMAC members to support and fund this effort.

Dr. Josh Garcia highlighted that the challenge is designed to take the next step in providing youth in our community with a means to be served in safe environments, while building out a systemic professional pipeline. He estimated that an initial commitment of about $25K per agency will support the program and enable the placement of the youth.

Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director of Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, thanked Dr. Garcia for his leadership and accepted the challenge on behalf of the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and noted they do have funding set aside for this purpose. Ms. Gizzi reflected on the current challenges her agency is having with staffing and noted that TPCHD will be seeking a volunteer and intern coordinator. Ms. Gizzi further noted that she sees this as a great opportunity to improve workforce.

Park Board President Andrea Smith stated that she accepts the challenge on behalf of Metro Parks Tacoma noting that the Park District will be working on planning for more internships for next summer.

Tacoma School Board Member Korey Strozier accepted the challenge on behalf of Tacoma Public Schools.

Port Commissioner Deanna Keller indicated that the Port of Tacoma is accepting the challenge and will consider putting these funds in their budget for 2023.

Rebecca Japhet with Pierce Transit commented that she will work with Pierce Transit CEO, Mike Griffus on this challenge.

Chair Bonbright thanked all participating agencies and noted that committee members can call on her or reach out to Dr. Garcia for specific information about the 2-5-3 Youth Employment Challenge.

**POLICY FOCUS AREA PRESENTATIONS**: **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Chair Bonbright stated that today’s discussion will be focused on enhancing public safety as Tacoma Police Chief Avery Moore was introduced to kick off a discussion about security challenges in the community and strategies for managing them.

Chair Bonbright reminded the committee that all our designated topics interact and intersect, so it remains critical to be using an equity lens when doing this work as JMAC remains focused on supporting an anti-racist community.

Chief Avery Moore and Deputy Chief Paul Junger were introduced.

Chief Moore stated that on July 12th he will be presenting Tacoma Police Department’s [Violent Crime Reduction Plan](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/police/crime_reduction_plan) to City Council.

Chief Moore commented that through crafting this plan, data has been analyzed, and it has been discovered that 24 specific addresses account for 12-13% percent of violent crime in Tacoma. Chief Moore indicted that the plan’s focus will be looking to reduce violent crime and reduce the number of victims. Chief Moore stated he did a soft roll out of the plan yesterday. The committee was informed that this plan will consist of 3 phases, with the first being hot spot policing.

The Chief commented that drawing from a substantial body of research on the positive impact that hot spot policing can have on reducing violence, this plan begins with a near-term focus on substantially increasing police visibility at and around addresses where violent crime is concentrated, and prioritizing street-level deterrence of potential offenders in these areas. He noted that the strategy is evidence-based and relies on increased police visibility rather than generalized “stop and frisk”, zero-tolerance policing, or other dragnet tactics.

Chief Moore commented on the recent shooting that killed a 14-year-old child last week . He noted that arrests have been made, and police are looking for a third suspect.

Assistant Chief Paul Junger stated that the plan is based on a lens of equity and does not rely on old tactics.

Chief Moore commented that as the plan was developed, there was consideration on how to be effective but not over police and not cause harm to community or the department.

Assistant Chief Junger indicated that the mid-term phase of the plan will involve using City and stakeholder resources to address conditions in areas of the city that make a particular location attractive for crime.

Assistant Chief Junger stated that all agencies represented at JMAC have been crucial in Phase 3 of the plan which focuses on how to help reduce crime by implementing a strategy of long-term deterrence through the support and partnership of social service organizations, including City departments, non-profits, and community-based leaders and groups. He further commented that Phase 3 will be looking at community-based systems where partners and agencies play a role for education and resources- this phase looks to change behaviors to give those coming out of the system hope.

Chair Bonbright then opened the floor for Q&A and comments.

**Chair Bonbright** shared that she was glad to hear data has been analyzed in the crafting of this plan. She thanked Chief More and Assistant Chief Junger for acknowledging that each agency has a role to play in keeping community safe.

**County Council Member Marty Campbell** thanked Chief Moore for attending the peace walk last night as it meant a lot to the community.

Chair Bonbright then requested that each agency share the current security challenges that they are facing*.*

**Rodney Chandler of Pierce Transit** reported their public safety model in the past consisted of a contract with Pierce County Sheriff, City of Lakewood Police and Federal Way Police, as well as in-house public safety officers and supervisors in the field. Mr. Chandler stated in the past couple years, the Sheriff’s Patrol and deputies have been reduced*.* He noted that short term goals to close these gaps in officers include private security with Allied Universal starting next week, a more visible presence at all transit stations in the city 7 days a week, and roaming officers to check on all centers. Mr. Chandler also indicated that County services have provided training and contact resources for service supervisors to use in the field as it relates to homelessness and mental health; that training will also be rolled out the new security officers. Mr. Chandler continued by stating that the long-term goal is to have an in-house crisis team as well, with the intent for them to serve as ambassadors to help people that may need resources or are experiencing crisis.

Additionally, Mr. Chandler mentioned that the Youth Ride program is being worked into these strategies.

**Cindan Gizzi** commented that she is excited about the ambassador program as outlined by Mr. Chandler. She suggested contacting Trauma Informed Oregon, as she has found it to be a great resource on how to train staff coming from a trauma informed approach*.*

**County Council Member Campbell** commented that the County is holding a public hearing next Monday where the Youth Ride Free program will be discussed. Council Member Campbell commented that for the past year, the County has been working on a holistic approach with wrap-around services beyond deputies to address safety including:

* Funding 9 mental health co-responders embedded in sheriff’s department
* Standing up a mental health court
* Reinstating auto theft task force focusing on organized crime in auto theft
* Introducing legislation on litter reduction
* Investing in homeless population for safe housing and parking, as they are very often the victims of crime
* Focusing on prevention and intervention by doubling funding for juvenile justice programs; examples include- Arts Connect, Alchemy Skate Boarding, Second Cycle, Boat Builders, Starting from Scratch, Mountaineers, Ours Sisters House, I am Worthy, and others.

**Dr. Josh Garcia, Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools** commented that TPS has a long partnership with the Tacoma Police Department and remains excited that the tradition will continue to work as TPS works with Chief Moore and TPD.

Dr. Garcia noted that there has been some confusion from the community in the past about the policing in schools. Additionally, Dr. Garcia continued by stating that safety is not just about policing in our communities, but also about our students and staff feeling safe in schools. He noted that schools are currently challenged by how fast social media impacts safety and different values of how those in the schools are feeling. Dr. Garcia expressed the need to balance what is being reported in social media with facts.

Dr. Garcia noted that TPS continues to work in the following areas to increase physical, social and emotional safety:

* Expanding jobs for high schoolers through paid job experience in parallel with a solid education
* Establishing partnership for mental health support inside schools
* Engagement in safer places after school
* Capital investments for safety infrastructure
* Building a new safety staffing infrastructure- moving to 2 school liaisons and a sergeant approach with campus support specialists
* Exploring to build a summer community safety academy

**Louis Cooper, Director of Security at the Port of Tacoma** noted that the Port has had a security department for 45 years. He noted that the Port currently has 30 armed and 15 unarmed officers who do work closely with TPD.

Mr. Cooper informed the committee that one of the biggest safety challenges at the Port is homelessness. Mr. Cooper stated that he and his staff continue to work closely with the City and TPD on this issue.

Mr. Cooper stated that the Port is planning for the following to address safety and security:

* Including a budget item for next year to fund an outreach officer position with a mental health background
* Continuation of staff training including active shooter training
* Remaining active in community engagement to building more partnerships
* Continuing to diversify its workforce

**Gerald Fiola, Chief of Security at the Port of Tacoma** spoke of the challenges with unarmed noncommissioned officers due to federal regulations. He commented that Port security looks at preparedness and resilience through practicing and communications.

**Metro Parks Tacoma Board Commissioner Andrea Smith** commented that safety challenges for Metro Parks include:

* Unbudgeted funds now being spent on private security for more visibility to deal with arson &

car break-ins

* Homeless populations requiring significant resources
* Parks staff not trained in mental health
* Staff not always willing to call 911

To deal with these challenges Commissioner Smith stated that the District is currently:

* Contracting with private security
* Investing in staff safety training
* Updating emergency facility plans
* Increasing and adjusting community youth programs to provide safe spaces and opportunities, such as the Late-Night program
* Providing free access to all Tacoma youth at community centers
* Collaborating with the City’s Heal Team
* Building a relationship with TPD community liaison officers

**Metro Parks Tacoma Commissioner Rosie Ayala** commented that she has a deep appreciation for MPT staff as they continue to lean in on things they must face everyday out in the parks, and their willingness to address safety overall.

**Joe Brady of Metro Parks Tacoma** commented that in the next budget cycle, the Parks District is seeking to have a comprehensive Ranger program filled by Metro Parks employees that would focus on patron interaction, patrolling and interpretation, as well as a direct liaison with Ruston and Tacoma Police Departments. This program will also be paired up with the MPT Volunteer program to empower citizen volunteers to be our advocates and eyes & ears in the Parks system.

**Hunter George or Metro Parks Tacoma** commented that he is hearing a theme of a “softer” approach with “ambassadors” to put more boots on the ground from all JMAC agencies. He stated that having common practices in alignment with similar training may be helpful moving forward.

**Cindan Gizzi of Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department** commented that her agency has a smaller security

footprint but do have contracted security at their buildings. Ms. Gizzi stated that TPCHD remains focused on applying JEDI lens on their work. She additionally noted that TPCHD has begun engaging with TPD to support them, especially in the Hosmer area of town.

Ms. Gizzi commented that she wants to be sure to honor community voice and support the TPD strategic plan, and she encourages all JMAC partners to center the community voice as early as possible and challenged TPD to do the same. Ms. Gizzi stated that TPCHD could assist in serving as a community convener when needed.

Chair Bonbright indicated that there will be continued conversation on this topic next month.

Chief Moore and Assistant Chief Junger commented that they remain excited about working in and with the community and community partners.

**STAFF WORKGROUP UPDATES -- Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma**

Hunter George commented that there is a need to do some communications about the focus work and themes at JMAC which could include beefing up the JMAC webpage on the City’s website (and linking it on each JMAC agency website), building an action-oriented dashboard, and continued communication to update the participants that attended the Summit of 60.

Mr. George noted that the written JMAC mid-year update was distributed by Chrisy Vindivich with the agenda on July 1st and will be separately distributed next week to all who attended the Summit of 60.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Bonbright called for public comment. No comments were provided.

**GENERAL COMMENTS BY JMAC**

None were provided.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is Friday, August 12, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Quarterly meeting will include agency CEOs.

Special Notes: Please mark your calendars-

* The November 2022 meeting has been changed to November 18th since November 11th is Veterans Day Holiday.
* The last meeting of the year with CEOs has been moved to December 9, 2022 (instead of November).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

\**Minutes taken by Metro Parks Tacoma*