



City of Tacoma

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, January 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Virtual and In-Person Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Naomi Wilson, Vice Chair Marvin Cooks, Secretary Andee Walton, Addison Atkatsh, Laura Badeaux, Noemi Cagatin-Porter, Kristi Coyne, Connie Ladenburg, Carlos Lugo, and Nikki Singh.

Members Absent: Kimberly Ellefson.

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

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:09

- Meeting chaired by Secretary Walton until Chair Wilson's arrival.
- Roll call.

2. Approval of the November and December Agenda at 6:10

- Motioned by Commissioner Ladenburg to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cagatin-Porter. Approved unanimously.

3. Review/Approval of October and November minutes at 6:12

- Motioned by Commissioner Ladenburg to approve minutes and Commissioner Cagatin-Porter seconded. Approved unanimously.

4. Utility Assistance Program at 6:12

- Presented by Francine Artis, Division Manager of Customer Service, Tacoma Public Utilities
 - i. Overview of Utility Assistance Program qualifications, discounted rates, how to apply.
 - ii. Discussion of outreach to community to raise awareness.
- Secretary Walton asks about types of outreaches conducted to reach enrollment goal of 10,000.
- Commissioner Cagatin-Porter asks how many are currently participating.
- Commissioner Ladenburg asks if outreach includes through social workers/DSHS.

5. Tenant Rights at 6:36

- Presented by ChiQuata Elder, Equity Programs Consultant, Office of Equity Human Rights
- Overview of recently updated landlord requirements for City of Tacoma
- Information on stricter rules enforced by State's Landlord Fairness Code
- Commissioner Singh asks what can be done if a leased property undergoes new ownership and faces extreme rental increases.
 - i. Consult an attorney; situation-dependant.
- Commissioner Ladenburg asks which law prevails.
 - i. Encouraged to follow both.
- Secretary Walton asks about creating buy-in for landlords.



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- i. View as a partnership with the City. Information on landlord trainings.
- Chair Wilson asks about rental regulations.
 - i. Checklists are available.

6. NCS Director's Corner at 6:57

- Presented by Allison Griffith, Director.
- Discussion of what Neighborhood and Community Services has planned for 2024.
 - i. Shift to two Division Managers.
 - ii. Structure changes for oversight of HSC in coming months.
 - iii. Competitive funding process for new human service funding in 2024.
 - iv. Commissioner Wilson asks about how HSC fits in with the overall NCS strategic plan.
 - v. HSC slotted to go before Community Vitality and Safety Committee in February.
 - 1. Desire for integrated conversation on overlap of HSC with the missions of other commissions and committees.

7. Public Comment at 7:09

- No written public comments received.

8. Review/Excuse Absences at 7:11

- None.

9. Good of the Order at 7:12

- Vicky McLaurin introduces new staff members.
- Chair Wilson requests review/update of what was accomplished by NCS since last year.
- Chair Wilson invites commissioners to share ideas with Community Vitality and Safety Committee in February.
- Commissioner Ladenburg requests to know more about the representations of each commission.
- Chair Wilson asks Commissioners to bring forward ideas for presentations and items of interest to NCS.

10. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 7:26

- Chair Wilson adjourns the meeting at 7:25.