

Tacoma Human Rights Commission

STUDY SESSION

May 19, 2022

Commissioners Present: Keshreeyaji Oswal, Mason Culbertson, Courtney Acoff, Ronita Boult, Robbie Johnston, Janice Langbehn, Amanda Westbrook, Verda Washington, Andre' Jimenez, Laurie Lynch

Commissioners Absent: C. Ivan Johnson, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Norman Brickhouse, Artyom Yakimovich, Michealea Lemons

Call to Order: Opened meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Each Commissioner, starting with the new Commissioners (Robbie Johnston, Janice Langbehn, Artyom Yakimovich, and re-appointed Amanda Westbrooke introduced themselves and shared the reason they wanted to become a Human Rights Commissioner.

Committee Reports:

Outreach & Education. Report led by Commissioner Lynch. Information shared included:

- The Committee meets on a Wednesday each month. Three things the Committee is focused on:
A one-pager about the Human Rights Commission that can be distributed in Outreach and Education efforts; A list of mental health professionals that accept new patients; and developing a social media presence to engage with the community.

Policy & Advocacy. Report led by Keshreeyaji Oswal.

- The Committee's focus is on Health Equity. Possible activities are facilitating community focus groups to determine ways to increase COVID-19 Vaccinations, and gathering lessons learned from the pandemic.

Racial Justice and Equity.

- The Committee is taking the lead in writing a letter to Police Chief Moore on his Crime Reduction Plan.
- The Committee is comparing the Equity Policing of Seattle (considered an overall good plan) with what Chief Moore has presented.

Housing & Equity Taskforce. Report led by Commission Culbertson. Information shared included:

- The need to have another Human Rights Commissioner on the Task Force;
- The Housing & Equity Taskforce is currently in Phase 2.

Assignments:

The Human Rights Manager will:

- Email each Commissioner a list of the email addresses for all current Human Rights Commissioners;
- Connect with the Police Department; ask the schedule of the Community Listening Sessions.

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BUSINESS MEETING

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Call to Order: Opened meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call

Approval of Business Meeting Agenda: Approved by Commission.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes: Approved by Commission; with one correction, Study Session was in March motion to approve the March Meeting Notes was made and passed. One change, Study Session was in "March", not "November".

Public Comment—Councilmember Rumbaugh was present to learn what the Human Rights Commission has planned and to share what she learns with the CVS Committee.

Staff Report: The Pre-Finding Settlement Agreement between City of Tacoma and Linda Shobey (Complainant) and Matthew Dosier (Respondent) and Park 19 Apartments, LLC (Respondent) was approved by Commission.

Commission Discussion:

- Commission agreed to attend City Council Meetings during May and June. Respective Commissioners will attend the following Council Meetings.

May 24, 2022	Amanda Westbrooke and Mason Culbertson
June 7, 2022	Andre' Jimenez
June 14, 2022	Janice Langbehn
June 21, 2022	Courtney Acoff

- Crime Reduction Plan of Chief Avery Moore. Commissioners discussed the PowerPoint slides of the presentation. Feedback included:
 1. Concerns with tone of Super Predator Rhetoric;
 2. "Urban Areas" are not identified;
 3. The Plan promotes "Stop and Frisk" behavior of "small groups" of people—possibly racial profiling activities;
 4. Mental Health is absent from the Plan
 5. Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) has been asking TPD to have less Police reactions to mental health crises. The Trueblood Policy not followed. Police are required to deescalate a situation when those having a mental health crises are involved.
 6. "Rise in Crime" and "Return to pre-pandemic levels", give a better explanation, along with sharing of pertinent data.
 7. The City providing more security at encampments, promotes "sweeps" of unhoused people.

Adjournment