

**Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**

Friday, December 9, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

In-person attendance only: STAR Center, 3873 S 66<sup>th</sup> St. Tacoma, WA

**CALL TO ORDER**

JMAC Chair Elizabeth Bonbright called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

**ROLL CALL - JMAC COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bonbright, Chair, Tacoma Public Schools  
Kristina Walker, Vice Chair, City of Tacoma  
Rosie Ayala, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Andrea Smith, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Kiara Daniels, City of Tacoma  
Ryan Mello, Pierce County  
Marty Campbell, Pierce County  
Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public Schools

**JMAC CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

Joshua Garcia, Tacoma Public Schools  
Shon Sylvia, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Mike Griffus, Pierce Transit

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cindan Gizzi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Renee Meschi, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Mandy Lee, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Hunter George, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Tim Reid, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Michael Liang, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Sandra Eliason, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Jennifer Bowman, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Debbie Russell, Metro Parks Tacoma  
Melanie Harding, City of Tacoma  
Rosa McLeod, City of Tacoma  
Carol Wolfe, City of Tacoma  
Bucoda Warren, City of Tacoma  
Alexandra Mather, Pierce Transit  
Alicia Lawver, Tacoma Public Schools  
Chelsea McElroy, Tacoma Public Schools  
Lisa Nolan, Tacoma Public Schools  
Matthew Mauer, Port of Tacoma  
Amy Cruver, Pierce County  
Jani Hitchen, Pierce County  
Sabrina Chmelir, Pierce County  
Gretchen Caserotti, Pierce County Libraries  
Linda Kay Briggs, Summit of 60 Participant  
Priscilla Lisicich, Summit of 60 Participant  
Nathe Lawver, Summit of 60 Participant  
Tafona Ervin, Summit of 60 Participant  
Kathy Littmann, Summit of 60 Participant  
Mike Yoder, Summit of 60 Participant

## INTRODUCTION

Chair Bonbright & Hunter George welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8:00 am.

## POLICY FOCUS AREA PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Chair Bonbright commented that for the past 2 years, JMAC's elected members and CEOs have been redefining the group's purpose and directing its collective energy on building a more resilient and anti-racist community. The JMAC work has focused around three strategic policy themes:

- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI)
- Health and Safety (physical & mental health and safety & security)
- Community Wealth Building

Chair Bonbright commented that within these 3 strategic themes, JMAC Members decided to start with six specific initiatives in 2022.

Meeting attendees were informed by Council Member Kristina Walker about the topics covered at the 2022 monthly JMAC meetings.

## PRESENTATIONS

JMAC CEOs and Members were introduced to share progress that JMAC has made this year on the six initiatives within the 3 strategic themes moving toward the collective vision.

### JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (JEDI)

**Shon Sylvia, Executive Director, Metro Parks Tacoma** was introduced to speak about work done related to childcare and expanded learning opportunities. Mr. Sylvia highlighted the following:

- Partnership with Greentrike and other providers to support Whole Child need
- Serving every elementary/middle school
- \$1.75 million in vital start up grants provided by City of Tacoma and Pierce County via ARPA funds
- Financial Stability: Metro Parks maintenance & operations levy + private grant from MacKenzie Scott which will support this work over the next 10 years.
- Now in its second year, 4 school-based sites recently received childcare licenses, which gives families access to the state childcare subsidy.

**Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department** was then introduced to speak about the Equity Action Collaborative. Ms. Gizzi commented on the following highlights from the program including:

- Initial Participants: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, City of Tacoma, Metro Parks
- Deeper level of shared community engagement
- Collaborating on policies and practices, including surplus land, multilingual employees, and compensating the public when they participate in public sector planning
- Developing language access plans

**Dr. Josh Garcia, Superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools** and **Korey Strozier, Tacoma Public School Board Vice President** were then introduced and spoke about the work Tacoma Public Schools and its Board has done in adopting an Anti-Racism Policy. Vice President Strozier highlighted specifics of the new Policy 1600 which leads with the following belief statements, including detailed policies under each, and their specific definitions:

"We believe Tacoma Public Schools must be a welcoming environment."

"We believe schools must mirror our communities."

"We believe students, staff and community members must be supported in addressing and eliminating racism."

"We believe in staff professional development on antiracism."

"We believe in culturally responsive schools."

Vice President Strozier commented that he hopes the TPS policy will serve as a model for others.

**Marty Campbell, Pierce County Council Member** was then introduced to speak about Pierce County's Equity Index and Equity Note. Council Member Campbell commented that the County's index is modeled after the Tacoma Equity Index. He noted that the index is a mapping tool that uses data and statistical analysis to identify areas where people are not able to access services or where services do not meet community needs. Council Member Campbell further noted that the equity index also shows where resources and policy decisions can improve and support equitable outcomes. Meeting attendees were also informed that Pierce County Equity Note is a new tool that will integrate equity considerations into County decisions, including policies and budgets.

**Cindan Gizzi, Deputy Director, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department** was called upon and described the Health-in-All-Polices Analysis. Ms. Gizzi commented that this tool is similar to the County's Equity Note, a tool designed to integrate the social, economic and environmental conditions of health into decision making. She further noted the tool can apply to land-use, transportation, housing, and parks, recreation & open spaces.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY (PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY & SECURITY)**

**Ryan Mello, Pierce County Council Member** was then introduced. Council Member Mello along with Cindan Gizzi commented on the efforts related to ending homelessness. It was noted that the Pierce County Council adopted a comprehensive plan in March 2022. The plan aims to document the scale of need and design a system to end homelessness in Pierce County.

Goals of the plan include:

- Creating a unified homeless response system, including central decision-making authority of funding and services.
- Expanding the permanent housing system to meet the need.
- Tacoma-Pierce County has a new staff position to facilitate community engagement around the Hosmer violence issues.

**Melanie Harding, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Tacoma** was then introduced to speak about progress being made in enhancing public safety. Ms. Harding remarked that the Tacoma Police Department has presented its Violent Crime Reduction plan that outlines near-term, mid-term and long-term goals. She commented that JMAC members have been discussing potential alignment of soft approaches to public safety that complements commissioned law enforcement efforts such as transit ambassadors, park rangers, library social workers, and Tacoma Public School's new security staffing structure.

Ms. Harding continued by describing the City's Vision Zero aimed to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries. She commented on some of the areas of focus including:

- Designing streets that make safe behavior the default.
- Changing codes and policies, such as reducing speed limits, adding automated enforcement traffic cameras, and calming traffic in our neighborhoods.
- Increasing investments in active transportation projects (sidewalks, crossings, bikeways) and ensuring that every transportation project is approached as an opportunity to improve safety.
- City adopted Vision Zero in 2020; New speed limits take effect Jan. 1, 2023.
- Pierce County adopted Vision Zero this year.

## **COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

**Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit** was introduced and spoke about the ways Pierce Transit is improving paying their vendors to support community wealth building. He noted that Pierce Transit shared its model process for paying vendors within 2 weeks. Mr. Griffus noted that using a system called e-Builder, they've enhanced their payment process with a focus on prompt payment through use of electronic workflows for documents and signatures. He highlighted that for small businesses, faster payments of invoices help them make payroll and helps them to continue to grow.

**Dr. Josh Garcia, Superintendent, Tacoma Public Schools** and **Alicia Lawver, Director of Strategic Planning, Tacoma Public Schools**, then reviewed a grid that outlined the strategies and actions JMAC agencies are implementing to increase contract and procurement spending with local and disadvantaged business.

Dr. Garcia then addressed the efforts being made to build pipelines to the future work for local students. He commented that through establishing a Maritime Skills Center to serve students throughout the region that is to be constructed in partnership with the Port of Tacoma and developed with industry partners in all aspects of maritime workforce development students will become skilled & technical trades, technology and innovation, transportation & logistics, and sustainability.

Dr. Garcia also commented on additional programs including:

- Next Move – partners students with local professionals.
- Jobs 253 – offers incoming juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn high school credit and meaningful work experience.
- Worksite Learning (WSL) – enables students who are over 16 and employed to earn 0.5 credit for every 180 hours worked.

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

Meeting participants then broke into roundtable discussions to have conversations around the following questions:

1. As JMAC works to align efforts and eventually outcomes of member governments, do you see ways that JMAC's work is supporting your work in the community? How so?
2. Is JMAC's work creating any unintentional barriers? How so?
3. Are there missed opportunities that JMAC should consider?
4. As JMAC develops its 2023 work plan, what would you add, subtract, or change that fits within the strategic themes of JEDI, Public Health and Safety, and Community Wealth Building?

Following tabletop conversations each group reported out on themes discussed such as:

- A workforce management fellow program.
- Stipend work programs.
- Opportunities to connect smaller firms with the MWBE programs.
- Opportunities to address climate, social justice, and safety in 2023.
- Future tribal engagement.
- Addressing needs in the local childcare system.
- Improved communications to the public on JMAC work.

Chair Bonbright commented that in 2023 the JMAC will:

- Elect a new Chair and Vice Chair.
- Welcome new elected officials, if any, from JMAC entities.
- Establish a 2023 work plan.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is Friday, January 13, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. We will return to offering a remote/virtual attendance option.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bonbright adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.