

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
OBSERVER REPORT

Tacoma City Council Study Session

Date: 2/2/2021

Observer: Ann Williams

Members Present: Hines, Ushka, Beale, McCarthy, Hunter, Thoms, Walker, Blocker, Woodard

Members Absent: None

Every week the City Manager updates the council on the status of Systems Transformation, the city's anti-racism effort. As of 2/1/2021 the Police Department has deployed 111 of the planned 255 body cameras, and they have just determined that the rate of deployment can increase, with a target to complete deployment around 2/28/2021.

The city contracted with 21CP Solutions for an in-depth study of the Tacoma Police Department. The initial report has recently been received, with 64 preliminary recommendations. These are posted on the city's website (<https://cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=192679>). The final report is expected around 3/15/2021. Keep in mind if you look at the preliminary recommendations that they are not as detailed as what should be available in the final report. Additionally, there could be more recommendations.

The city manager also reviewed the city's legislative agenda activity related to Systems Transformation and notes seven testimonies at the state and local level between 1/14/2021 and 2/4/2021.

There were three Items of Interest on the agenda and this report covers two of them. The first was the Mayor's request to rejoin South Sound Together, which has now transformed into a non-profit, with a mission to promote lifestyle and economic improvements in the South Sound. They are now housed under the umbrella of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. The focus of the organization this year will be initiatives to encourage the next generation of community leaders and the relaunch of South Sound Proud, which elevates the voices of area residents. The city's dues to join will be \$12,000.

The second Item of Interest was a presentation by Linda Stewart, Director of Neighborhood and Community Services regarding the plan to pilot the provision of five hygiene stations in homeless encampments around the city. The sites have not been selected, but this is expected soon. The pilot will last for 60 days followed by an evaluation of its success or failure.

If the stations are misused or otherwise do not work, they would be discontinued. The hope is to have regular monitoring of the stations, but no groups or individuals have stepped up to this task. Ms. Stewart emphasized that anyone, individual or group, can do this, and the city will pay for these management services. Her presentation prompted a good deal of discussion about the failure (in the eyes of some) of two prior efforts to in 2017 and 2019. The council was strongly in favor or monitored stations. It was not clear from the presentation when the stations would be operational.