



**PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

Online via Zoom

**Tuesday, March 08, 2022
8:00 AM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
- [3.](#) Approval of Minutes: Public Health & Safety Committee, February 8, 2022
- [4.](#) Public Defense Update (Troy Niemeyer)
- [5.](#) Emergency Management Update (Brian Hurley)
6. Additional Items
7. Adjourn

Remote Meeting Information

To comply with Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, the City of Tumwater meetings will be conducted remotely, not in-person, using a web-based platform. The public will have telephone and online access to all meetings.

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81011741397?pwd=KzqyaG5sT1drVk9STEllSk9DNmp6Zz09>

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Post Meeting

Audio of the meeting will be recorded and later available by request, please email CityClerk@ci.tumwater.wa.us

Accommodations

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CONVENE: 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Leatta Dahlhoff and Councilmembers Peter Agabi and Angela Jefferson.

Staff: City Administrator John Doan, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Police Chief Jon Weiks, Fire Chief Brian Hurley, and Police Administrative Services Manager Laura Wohl.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES: JANUARY 11,
2022:**

MOTION: Councilmember Jefferson moved, seconded by Councilmember Agabi, to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

**TUMWATER HOPES
UPDATE:** Janine Koffel, Coalition Coordinator, Tumwater HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Prevention and Empowerment and Success), reported the organization is a community coalition as part of the Community Prevention Wellness Initiative, a statewide effort to address risk and prevent teen substance use. Tumwater HOPES, established in 2018, is one of approximately 100 coalitions across the state. Councilmembers Schneider and Swarthout serve as members representing the City of Tumwater.

Ms. Koffel reviewed some key objectives focused on since the beginning of the school year. One objective is increasing the capacity of Tumwater to address alcohol, tobacco, and other drug uses. Virtual coalition meetings are held monthly in addition to two youth coalition monthly meetings (THEE Club - Thurston Hope for Everyone Everywhere) facilitated by Big Brothers, Big Sisters. The organization completed an annual Community Survey receiving 240 completed surveys with one Spanish survey submitted. The Tumwater School District coordinated the Healthy Youth Survey for students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in October 2021. The results are pending and will be released in April 2022. Data from the youth and community surveys in addition to other organizational datasets will help inform revisions to the organization's Strategic Action Plan.

Tumwater HOPES has partnered with the City of Tumwater to conduct an annual key leader event, a meeting focused on engaging key decision-makers across the City representing schools, organizations vested in supporting youth and families,

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parents, neighborhood associations, and other stakeholders in the City who promote or provide services promoting children, youth, and family health and wellbeing to prevent teen substance use, as well as teen suicide.

Tumwater HOPES employs a system-wide comprehensive approach to improve the health of the population by considering youths, families, cities, county, schools, and the state to identify ways to increase the capacity for positive and low-risk choices and decrease risk factors that might contribute to a youth's high risk decision to use drugs and alcohol as a coping strategy for stressors or other system issues related to housing, food, and employment insecurities. The key leader event is intended to bring as many of those stakeholders together to review the results of the surveys. The last surveys were completed in 2018. Survey results in 2018 reflected an increase in vaping in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12.

Ms. Koffel responded to questions regarding the intent of the community survey and how the survey was distributed throughout the community. The community sought feedback about youth and wellbeing from different perspectives. For example, the survey goal for participants representing law enforcement and first responders was information from their perspective on what they believe are key concerns for youths, drugs, and alcohol use in Tumwater. The survey was distributed within the community through different venues beginning in August 2021 at the Tumwater Farmers Market, through coalition partner networks, in neighborhoods during Halloween, the City's annual Clean-Up, Drop-Off event, at vaccination clinics, postcard distribution with QR code information in Spanish through the Thurston County Food Bank, local churches, PTAs, school district, and City promotional efforts.

Mr. Koffel described the efforts of the THEE Club comprised of youth interested in helping to promote teen health. Youth members received training on advocacy, public speaking, and event planning. The effort also focuses on classroom situations and how that environment affects youths. Twenty-one staff members at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School received training on the evidence-based good behavior game, a game geared to reduce disruptive behavior in the classroom. However, because of the pandemic and the chaotic environment it has created in schools, the program has been difficult to implement. The effort contributed to a partnership with the Tumwater Parks and Recreation Department. At Tumwater Middle School, staff

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requested training on an evidence-based intervention program to help students develop positive goals around health, nutrition, and an exercise to help reduce risk of substance use. Bush Middle School has experienced some staff disruptions within health classes and deliveries of training programs have been delayed. Big Brothers, Big Sisters, as a coalition partner, also subcontracted with Tumwater HOPES to establish and promote the THEE Club. Six youth consistently participate in the club with the first in-person event planned at the end of February in partnership with the Cultural Center in Tumwater. The intent is to provide a pro-social, low-risk event for high school students to attend a supervised event.

Increasing the perception of harm is another goal, as many youths view the legalization of marijuana and use of alcohol as legal and safe. Rebecca May, North Student Assistance Specialist, is implementing Project Success, another evidence informed program through a good vibes club providing sixth and seventh graders an opportunity to help her with prevention programming at Bush Middle School. The effort helps students understand the risks and consequences of drug use.

The Tumwater Parks and Recreation Department and Family Education and Support Services are providing the virtual Guiding Good Choices program to increase parent skills to reduce risk and manage perceived harms. The program is a six session virtual series with a planned in-person session in spring 2022. Six families were registered for the program with four families consistently participating in the program.

Each year, the objectives are reviewed along with supporting data to identify gaps and opportunities to reinforce gains and identify missing partners. Many voices within the community are missing. Those voices would help the organization understand the entire picture of what youths and their families are experiencing in Tumwater.

Councilmember Agabi commented on the importance of ensuring surveys are widely distributed or advertised broadly in the community to increase awareness. Mr. Koffel responded that the pandemic has played an important role in creating a cumulative fatigue spanning all systems causing more challenges on ways to engage the community around the concern of teen substance use.

Chair Dahlhoff referred to previous discussions on ways the City can partner and support the coalition. One area was through

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City advertising. She asked whether the coalition has considered the proliferation of signs promoting vaping and smoking. Mr. Koffel said it speaks to a greater level of intervention. The most recent focus has been directly to youths, families, and schools. Moving toward spring, the coalition is featuring speakers providing latest science on youth and cannabis and the role policymakers play in promoting and protecting teen health. Signage often promotes normalization of the perception that substance use is acceptable for anyone. Controlling signage, as well as the exposure youths have to that type of advertising is definitely of interest to the coalition and something the coalition will explore during spring and summer. One such effort is riding local school bus routes for an environmental scan of information students are exposed to daily as they travel to school.

City Administrator Doan commented that surveying a community is a notoriously difficult process. The City has used traditional means resulting in a limited segment of the population completing surveys. Additionally, all communities have been bombarded by different surveys. Titles of surveys can also narrow the response rate as many believe a survey might not be applicable to them. In addition to the key leader event, the City also sponsored several community summits before the pandemic. Last year, the City and TOGETHER combined efforts and hosted an in-person summit with support from the school district.

**UPDATE FROM
 THURSTON COUNTY
 PROSECUTOR'S
 OFFICE:**

City Administrator Doan briefed members on the City's decision to transition municipal court services from the City's municipal court to contracting with the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office. The City had contracted with the Thurston County Prosecutor for prosecution services for many years prior to the transition. However, in 2013, the City transitioned to three contracts with Thurston County for court operations with District Court, prosecution services through the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office, and services through the Office of Public Defense.

Christy Peters, Chief of Staff, Thurston County Prosecutor's Office, added that in addition to those services, the Prosecutor's Office prosecuted each felony for the City of Tumwater. Today, Thurston County provides all criminal justice court services. Additionally, all juvenile cases were handled by the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office.

Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecutor, updated members on

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the Tumwater prosecution program. Most cases are serious traffic violations (impaired drivers, driving with suspended license, and hit and run), assaults (primarily domestic violence now referred to as imminent partner violence (IPV) or violence that occurs between people involved in a relationship), lower level theft cases, vehicle prowls, and other property crimes.

Mr. Tunheim shared high level statistical information on referred cases, charged cases, and declined cases. Some offenses have declined likely because of COVID and new legislation on policing limiting the ability of law enforcement to make traffic stops and other types of actions. Currently, 268 non-IPV cases are pending trial and 77 IPV cases are pending trial.

Councilmember Agabi asked whether data exists prior to the passage of 1310 accounting for traffic violations or infractions. Mr. Tunheim advised that data likely exists; however, it is only recently that the impacts of 1310 have been identified. Another year of data would provide more information on the decline.

Police Chief Weiks added that the new laws have severely limited the department's ability to proactively police with traffic stops declining because of liability risks.

Mr. Tunheim said both the District and Superior Courts have essentially closed periodically during the pandemic. Currently, Thurston County District Court is not conducting any jury trials until the end of February. Each time, the courts shut down caseloads back up creating more challenges for the office. Not all cases will advance to trial and some will be resolved. During the pandemic, more cases were settled prior to trial.

The current population in the Mental Health Court – Veterans Court has declined during the pandemic for many of the same reasons. It is anticipated that as the courts begin to reopen, cases will begin to increase as more referrals are forwarded to the therapeutic courts. The Mental Health Court also serves people who are charged with felonies; however, it entails a process as the Mental Health Court is housed in District Court, which only has jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses. In those instances involving a felony, the felony charge is converted to a misdemeanor charge filed in District Court to afford the ability of the offender to participate in the therapeutic court. Those instances often involve a felony where mental health was a factor in the criminal conduct.

Councilmember Agabi inquired as to whether the Prosecutor's

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Office tracks recidivism data for the therapeutic courts. Mr. Tunheim affirmed the therapeutic courts maintain recidivism data, which is tracked through the courts. The shortage of mental health beds is an ongoing issue for the criminal justice system at all levels for misdemeanor and felony offenses. Unfortunately, many people are confined for long durations because of the lack of mental health beds. Additionally, participants in the therapeutic courts are not subject to involuntary treatment or civil commitment. Participants in the Mental Health Court receive intensive case management and connection to a variety of mental health services, as well as substance use disorder treatment and housing referrals.

Some of the innovations provided by the therapeutic courts include the ability to divert cases through the pre-trial services department that are misdemeanors for those who do not require intensive case management while affording an opportunity to make restitution and receive referral to services. Those services are funded from the county's treatment sales tax and are anticipated to be offered over the next several months as a strategy to address the backlog of cases.

Mr. Tunheim spoke to the success of the LEAD Program over the last several months. Approximately two-thirds of the referrals to the program are from local law enforcement agencies.

The Prosecutor's Office also provides a victim advocacy program with staff specifically designated as victim advocates who work with victims to help them connect to different support services.

Ms. Peters encouraged members to view virtual court proceedings because of the pandemic. Access is available through the Thurston County District Court website with links to each court hearing. Members can login as an observer to watch court proceedings. The therapeutic courts can also be viewed virtually. The therapeutic courts continue to broadcast graduation ceremonies. She offered to follow-up with staff when a Tumwater citizen is scheduled to graduate from the Mental Health Court or the Veterans Court.

Chair Dahlhoff conveyed appreciation for the update and recommended scheduling periodic updates to the committee.

City Attorney Kirkpatrick noted that previously, the committee received an annual update other than when specific topics were

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scheduled, such as when an update was provided on DUIs. The contract is scheduled for renewal at the end of this year, which might be timely to schedule an update to the committee.

Chair Dahlhoff offered some suggestions on updates, such as driving while suspended in the third degree, the proliferate use of fentanyl, and impacts from the Blake decision.

City Administrator Doan suggested scheduling an update in four months on three different topics.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chair Dahlhoff adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Prepared by Puget Sound Meeting Services, psmsoly@earthlink.net

TO: Public Health and Safety Committee
FROM: Troy Niemeyer, Finance Director
DATE: March 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Public Defense Update

1) Recommended Action:

None

2) Background:

The City outsourced its municipal court in 2013. It entered into a contract with the Thurston County Office of Assigned Council, now known as Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD), for legal representation services for indigent persons charged with criminal offenses by the City of Tumwater.

The service scope includes representation for each defendant from arraignment through trial, sentencing, post-trial review and any appeals. The TCPD assures that professional staff are available for interviewing and/or counseling individuals and defendants held in custody as needed on a 24-hour basis, and that defendants held in custody pending trial are interviewed in a timely manner in accordance with established professional standards.

TCPD staff will present an overview of their work.

3) Policy Support:

Provide and Sustain Quality Public Safety Services

- Pursue data-driven crime analysis/proactive enforcement
-

4) Alternatives:

☐ None

5) Fiscal Notes:

None, this is only a presentation.

6) Attachments:

None

TO: Public Health & Safety Committee
FROM: Brian Hurley, Fire Chief
DATE: March 8, 2022
SUBJECT: Emergency Management Update

1) Recommended Action:

Informational only

2) Background:

Chief Hurley and City Administrator Doan will provide an update on City Emergency Management related activities for the Committee. This will include an overview of elected official's responsibilities and recommended training for City staff and elected officials.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority D: Provide and Sustain Quality Public Safety Services
Goal: Implement City Emergency Management Program

4) Alternatives:

N/A

5) Fiscal Notes:

N/A

6) Attachments:

A. Elected Official Responsibilities for emergencies

ELECTED OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

City Contact: City Administrator

EOC Contact: EOC Manager

Primary Responsibilities:

- Maintain contact with the Administrator or designee during an emergency
- Provide official recommendation and/or endorsement of emergency proclamation (Council) and issue emergency proclamation (Mayor)
- In coordination with the City Administrator or EOC Manager, interface with representatives of other jurisdictions regarding shared resources, assistance, and policy issues
- Provide elected leadership support as needed, for joint media conferences or other functions in the emergency response, and coordinate activities with the City Administrator
- In conjunction with the City's other elected leaders, make policy decisions as requested by the City Administrator and EOC Manager
- Provide for Mayor Pro-Tem as necessary
- Prior to emergency, establish and maintain an organization for emergency management (RCW 38.52)

Roles and Responsibilities:

Communication – Facilitate communication via ESF-15 to the public in coordination with the EOC and other representatives of the City. Describe the nature of the events, status of response, what individuals should be doing, the anticipated next steps in response or transition to recovery. Set tactful but realistic expectations for the public. It is acceptable to include messages of compassion, concern, caution, and frankness.

Policy Decisions – Determine proper composition of Policy Group. Determine relationship to EOC including protocols and requirements for interaction between the Policy Group and EOC. Make policy decisions when appropriate. Address citywide or departmental policy concerns that come up during or after the event. Allow line staff and operations to do their work and carry-out their responsibilities without distraction or interference.

Support Response Efforts – Support resource acquisition across jurisdictions. Monitor financial impacts of response and recovery efforts.

Important Leadership Actions

1. Prior to an emergency, model good emergency preparedness at home in order to be fully prepared and responsive to the City and community. When an emergency happens, first get your personal business in order and ensure the safety of your family.
2. When notified or you become aware of an emergency, contact the City Administrator (or Fire Chief if unavailable). If unable to reach the City Administrator, you may be able to reach the Tumwater EOC (if activated) to obtain a briefing on the overall incident.
3. Issue/ratify emergency proclamations.
4. Execute recovery actions early in the response effort.
5. Focus on policy-making and other leadership responsibilities, coordinating information gathering and communications with the City Administrator and EOC Manager.
6. Establish communication with the public early and often based on consistent and coordinated messages from the EOC Manager.
7. If the disaster significantly impacts the City's operations, coordinate with City Administrator and EOC Manager to determine if Policy Group activation is warranted in support of emergency response and recovery efforts.
8. If requested and as appropriate, provide support for public information interviews, release and broadcasts. Support joint media conferences in cooperation with all member agencies of a regional emergency response effort.
9. If requested, contact county, state and/or federal elected officials to support the petition for higher government response and disaster assistance.
10. Be prepared to provide direction and policy on topics such as: curfew, evacuation, condemnation of buildings, use of reserve fund, debris removal and storage.
11. Be prepared to provide direction and policy on requesting outside assistance and/or resources such as an Incident Management Team (IMT)