

**TUMWATER PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
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CONVENE: 8:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Tom Oliva and Councilmember Leatta Dahlhoff.

Excused: Councilmember Michael Althausen.

Staff: City Administrator John Doan, Fire Chief Scott LaVielle, Police Chief Jon Weiks, and Recording Secretary Valerie Gow.

**POST SNOW
UPDATE:**

City Administrator Doan reported feedback from the community was positive on the City's efforts to clear roads during a major snow event in February. The City focused on clearing lifeline roads and major arterials. Most of the overtime costs were incurred by Public Works and Fire Department personnel. Police response incurred no overtime costs. Facilities staff managed to keep pace with the snow. The most popular aspect of the City's response was the GPS attached to one of the snow plows. The device enabled the public to track plowed streets.

Councilmember Dahlhoff shared that one of her neighbors inquired about the City's methods for prioritizing the removal of snow from streets, as her neighborhood's roads were not cleared for five days. City Administrator Doan responded that staff typically assesses roads important to clear or areas where access may be limited. Plowing residential streets is challenging because in most neighborhoods, people are not prepared for the snow and vehicles are often parked on the street creating problems for the snow plow. Snow plows on residential streets tend to block driveways with snow or block cars parked on the street with snow.

Chair Oliva asked about the reason for the high call volume to the Fire Department. Fire Chief LaVielle replied that most of the calls were non-fire related. Another reason for the increase in calls was because most people stayed home because of the storm. Some of the responses were auto accidents. Because of the high volume of calls, the AMR ambulance crew stayed at the station, rather than its Tumwater Hill location, to ensure private ambulance response times were optimal. Public Works ensured lifeline routes were cleared. The Fire Department installed chains on the fire engines to assist in accessing side streets and areas with hills.

TUMWATER SAFE PROGRAM: City Administrator Doan reported the concept for the proposed Tumwater SAFE Program began with a request from representatives of local Washington State agencies, in response to Governor's Directive 16-11 to work with local police to develop a program to help LGBTQ+

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persons be safe in the community. It is modeled after programs in Olympia and Seattle, where “Safe Place” stickers in windows indicate businesses that will provide shelter to any individual feeling threatened or harassed.

The urban environment is different in Tumwater than it is in Olympia and Seattle, as Tumwater lacks a traditional downtown. Subsequently, the conversation supported a two-step process to work with a smaller group of state agencies for a program specific to state agencies and geared to the LGBTQ+community by placing stickers in windows or on doors. The effort includes training state employees to respond appropriately. Recognizing that some state agencies are not staffed at each entrance or some doors are locked, the City recognized the need to work with each state agency to ensure stickers are not placed on doors or windows that do not open or not staffed. Inherent in the process is the need for some training in the Police Department surrounding cultural competency around LGBTQ issues and appropriate responses.

The second phase of the program will focus on safety for all individuals in the community. The second phase will be launched through conversations with the community, partners, schools, state agencies, and the library about safety for all people. Those conversations will be initiated under the umbrella of the Tumwater SAFE Program.

The first phase of the program will be initiated soon with stickers provided to state agencies and local businesses followed by ongoing conversations between City staff and the community about the importance of safety for all individuals.

Councilmember Dahlhoff asked whether there would be an opportunity to collaborate with Rainbow Alliance and Inclusion Network (RAIN), a business resource group that provides resources and support to state employees. City Administrator Doan responded that it is likely that some of the state agency employees could be participants of RAIN.

Councilmember Dahlhoff asked whether the City would include a website for the program. City Administrator Doan advised that the website for the Tumwater program is www.tumwatersafe.com. The website is geared to individuals who are seeking resources and information.

City Administrator Doan said City staff plans to initiate some meetings later in the month. He anticipates the program will be launched officially within the next several months. Ongoing conversations with

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state agencies and other partners will include different ways to publicize the program to the public. Additionally, the program provides some options for establishing a closer relationship with state agencies located in the City.

The committee supported moving forward with the program.

**FORESTLAND
RESPONSE
AGREEMENT &
AGREEMENT
WITH
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES
(DNR) &
TUMWATER FIRE
DEPARTMENT:**

Fire Chief LaVielle reported the proposal is a renewal of an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Essentially, if assistance is required or needed for an overhead team such as a public information officer or incident commander or to help with rescue of deployed forest members, the agreement authorizes the Fire Department to provide support and resources.

The agreement was last implemented during the Rochester fire in the summer of 2018. The fire required many resources to include DNR and the City and other departments. The fire required a plane and an overhead team from Tacoma. The Tacoma team managed the scene. Four structures were lost during the fire.

The cooperative agreement provides mutual assistance as needed. Some minor changes recommended by the City Attorney are included.

Chair Oliva asked whether the agreement compels the City to participate in incidents beyond the City's boundary. Fire Chief LaVielle explained that response could include the protection of a community through structural triage. The Fire Department could join a task force and strike team from Thurston County. The Fire Department would likely contribute a fire engine with fire fighting limited to structures only and not wildland firefighting. The agreement enables the Fire Department to participate with a strike team of five engines to protect communities. The City would receive reimbursement for engine time and all personnel costs to include any personnel backfill costs.

Fire Chief LaVielle requested the committee's approval to move the agreement to the City Council with the proposed minor changes.

CONSENSUS:

The Public Health and Safety Committee moved the proposed agreement to the Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chair Oliva adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

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