



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on January 7, 2025.

Date of Meeting: August 7, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in study session in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall, 255 West Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona at 12:05 p.m., on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2)
Vice Mayor Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4) (electronic attendance)
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (electronic attendance)
Council Member Karin Uhlich (Ward 6) (electronic attendance)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Council Member Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)

STAFF:

Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager
Mike Rankin, City Attorney
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

Mayor Romero announced that Council Members Lee, Fimbres and Uhlich would be participating electronically through Microsoft TEAMS.

(NOTE: Minutes for Study Session are transcribed in verbatim format.)

1. **Executive Session – Discussion of the City of Tucson’s Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Posture (City Wide) SS/JUN07-22-111**
3. **Executive Session – Goodman v. City of Tucson, Notice of Claim Nos. 26860 and 26861; Pima County Superior Court Case No. 20194826 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-154**

(This item was taken out of order.)

5. **Executive Session – Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, et al., v. City of Phoenix, et al., Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CV2024-001435 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/AUG07-24-148**

(This item was taken out of order.)

7. **Executive Session – KMS Enterprises, LLC v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20240164 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-150**

(This item was taken out of order.)

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused). to enter into Executive Session as noticed in the agenda for Items 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Mayor Romero: Items 1 through 8 are executive sessions and directions to staff. Ms. Clerk.

Clerk: Your Honor, Item 1 is Executive Session – Ongoing Opioid Litigation: United States District Court Cases: North District of Ohio, Case No. 1:17-md-02804-DAP (1-19-op-45267); and District of Arizona, Case No. 4:19-cv-00167; Addition of Responsible Parties as Defendants; Approval of Kroger Opioid Settlement and is being held pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4).

The second Executive Session is noticed as Item 3. Executive Session – Goodman v. City of Tucson, Notice of Claim Nos. 26860 and 26861; Pima County Superior Court Case No. 20194826, and is being held pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3), (A)(4) and (A)(7).

The third Executive Session is noticed as Item 5. Executive Session – Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, et al., v. City of Phoenix, et al., Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CV2024-001435 and is being held pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4).

The fourth Executive Session is noticed as Item 7. Executive Session – Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, et al., v. City of Phoenix, et al., Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CV2024-001435 and is being held pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4).

Mayor Romero: Good job, Suzanne. May I have a motion to go into executive session please?

Council Member Fimbres: So, moved, Madam Mayor.

Council Member Uhlich: Second.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

ALL: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against motion carries. We will see you out in about what an hour and a half. We'll see you in an hour and a half. Thank you everyone.

RECESS: 12:07 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:08 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused

STAFF: All present

Executive Session was held from 12:07 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.

It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to return to open session.

2. **Mayor and Council Direction Relating to Executive Session – Ongoing Opioid Litigation: United States District Court Cases: Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 1:17-md-02804-DAP (1-19-op-45267); and District of Arizona Case No. 4:19-cv-00167; Addition of Responsible Parties as Defendants; and Approval of the Kroger Opioid Settlement (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-143**

It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to authorize and direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, to include approval of the Kroger settlement and the pursuit of claims against additional responsible parties.

Mayor Romero: What does the Council's pleasure for item 2?

Mike Rankin, City Attorney: Honorable Mayor, members of council with respect Item 2 relating to the ongoing opioid litigation, I'd ask for a motion that the Mayor and Council authorized and direct the city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session to include approval of the Kroger settlement and the pursuit of claims against additional responsible parties.

Council Member Cunningham: So, moved your Honor.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Second

Mayor Romero: There's a motion in a second, any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

All: Aye

Mayor Romero: Any against, motion carries. Alrighty, what is the Council's pleasure for Item 4?

3. **Executive Session – Goodman v. City of Tucson, Notice of Claim Nos. 26860 and 26861; Pima County Superior Court Case No. 20194826 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-154**

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #1.)

4. **Mayor and Council Direction Relating to Executive Session – Goodman v. City of Tucson, Notice of Claim Nos. 26860 and 26861; Pima County Superior Court Case No. 20194826 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-153**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to authorize and direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, and to schedule an item at the next meeting in August to conclude discussion of this matter and the related terms and conditions.

(Note: Council Member Fimbres departed at 1:38 p.m.; returned at 1:54 p.m.)

Mike Rankin, City Attorney: Mayor, I would ask for a motion that the Mayor and Council direct and authorized the city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session and to schedule an item at the next meeting in August to conclude the executive session discussion of this matter and the related terms and conditions

Mayor Romero: Motion please?

Council Member Fimbres: So, moved.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Second

Council Member Uhlich: Second.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. What is the Council's pleasure for Item 6?

5. **Executive Session – Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, et al., v. City of Phoenix, et al., Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CV2024-001435 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/AUG07-24-148**

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #3.)

6. Mayor and Council Direction Relating to Executive Session – Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona, et al., v. City of Phoenix, et al., Maricopa County Superior Court Case No. CV2024-001435 (City Wide and Outside City) SS/AUG07-24-149

It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to authorize and direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, including with respect to proceeding with an appeal from the decision of the trial court.

Mike Rankin, city Attorney: Honorable Mayor, I'd ask for a motion. This is with respect to the decision in Maricopa County Superior Court relating to the prevailing wage ordinances that the Mayor and Council authorized and direct the city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session, including with respect to proceeding with an appeal from the decision of the trial court.

Mayor Romero: May we have a motion please.

Council Member Uhlich: So, moved.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Second.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion on this item? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye, aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against? Motion carries. What is the Council's pleasure for Item 8?

7. Executive Session – KMS Enterprises, LLC v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20240164 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-150

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #5.)

8. Mayor and Council Direction Relating to Executive Session – KMS Enterprises, LLC v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20240164 (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-151

It was moved by Council Member Cunningham, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to authorize and direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, including with respect to the proposed resolution of this lawsuit. The City Attorney is authorized by the Mayor

and Council to discuss the terms of the proposed resolution with necessary parties as discussed in executive session.

Council Member Cunningham: Your Honor, I'm gonna move that we direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session, including with respect to the proposed resolution of this lawsuit. The City Attorney's authorized by the Mayor and Council to discuss the terms of the proposed resolution with necessary parties, as discussed in session.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Second

Mayor Romero: There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion. Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against, motion carries alrighty. We are done with the executive session items.

10. Discussion Regarding the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS); Presentation by PSPRS Administrator (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-147

(This item was taken out of order.)

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

Mayor Romero: We do see...what we're going to do Ms. Clerk is go to item 10 and the discussion regarding the public safety personnel retirement system, presentation by the PSPRS administrator, Mr. Townsend, since he is here and then we will return to item 9 after we're done with that.

So, Mr. Townsend, would you like to join us at the table? Come on, there you go just jump in Mr. Manager, did you want to introduce this item or...or Ms. Rosenberry? How would you like to?

Anna Rosenberry, Chief Financial Officer/Assistant City Manager: Yeah...thank you, Mayor and Council Members. This afternoon, as you recall, during budget discussions, we... we have been having conversations as we do every year about the City's relationships and working with the PSPRS as the public safety, pension systems, umm...and our contributions to that system as it provides important benefits for our sworn officers and police and fire. At like we did last year the executive director has agreed to come and have a conversation with Mayor and Council about how things are going at the state level with the PSPRS and we're very thankful

that they could be here this afternoon. So, Mike Townsend, Executive Director and Clark Partridge staff member, thank you.

Mike Townsend, PSPRS Executive Director: Yeah, Honorable Mayor, Members of the Council, thank you again for the invitation. I think it is exactly about a year since we were last year, umm. With me is Clark Partridge, one of our staff. We also have Fletcher Monzingo in the audience. Fletcher joined us about six months ago, he had spent 10 plus years working at the state level in the legislature and the governor's office. Fletcher was also the one that we worked with quite a bit on pension funding at the state level through the legislature. So, he's...has a lot of experience working with pensions and understanding of the pension world.

We had a conversation; I think a week or two ago with the Manager and with Ms. Rosenberry. Not a lot has changed I don't think from where we were last year. We're continuing managing the system. We continue to make changes, we are a little over three years now into updating our financial system, which we think is going to be beneficial for the Members, for the employers and also for staff, make things more efficient, a lot better controls, business processes. The implementation for that is planned for April. So, we're planning to go live with that system. That's a big investment that I think is gonna make a big change again. A lot of the changes that are that I covered last year to trustees, new management, new actuaries. We're continuing to make progress the City of Tucson's plan from our evaluations again, that's separate. That's not including your Section 115 Trust is about the same funded status that it was last year, similar to a lot of other communities around the state.

There were some rather sizable compensation increases for publics tonight. We did have that discussion with your manager and your CFO and...and that was discussed with Council previously. So, I think there is an understanding of that 20% increases were very nice, but I don't think that's going to be the standard. So that has an...has an impact on the total liabilities. If you just think in terms of average compensation, setting someone's pension at retirement, a sizable increase to compensation it in one year is going to have an impact on that future liability. And so that's something that we have seen across the state. So, the contributions will be adjusted for all employers going forward. Again, the...the...the Section 115 Trust we talked last year, that was a really positive move that the City of Tucson did to put you in a good position, get very low rate to have funds available for the pension funding.

Umm, we're here to answer questions to help. However, we can whatever process you wanna go through, we will go through as we have with our...our board setting the assumptions and making sure the funds are there to pay the benefits when they become due cash flow wise, the city of Tucson plans for police and fire are positive cash flow in terms of the pensions with the money at PSPRS and will continue to be positive cash flow. So, it's going to keep increasing over the next couple of decades to make sure the funding is there, just paying just setting the...the annual contributions, any lump sum payments just help get it there faster. So however, we work together in partnership, we'll get there one way or the other, whatever works out. We're just here to answer questions and...and do the best we can. I'm trying to manage that I think we have made changes and reduced our assumed rate of return. We've reduced payroll growth assumptions. These are all things to try to get more funding up front in terms of contributions.

So, we don't...get I'm going further down in terms of funded status. That was the experience with this system many years ago. It was year after year of increasing unfunded liabilities. So, we've made the changes so we can be consistent, make sure that we keep getting funding taking place. We know there's other implications for the city of Tucson. We had a talk about the flat tax that was implemented at the state level. So, we've made note of that. We'll be discussing that with our board and our actuary. So, as they make considerations for future changes in assumptions, just taking that into account of what that impact would be in terms of increased contributions plus the flat tax implications just to help you manage your budget. So, we'll make sure that we take that message back to the board. Umm so that I I didn't really have a presentation or remarks since we were here last year. For a lot of you to ask questions, to get to get you comfortable with what we're doing, I'll turn to Clark, see if you had anything else that I forgot.

Clark Partridge: No, just echo what you said, Mike, which was you guys made a very good decision to be able to take a long-term perspective and approach to how are you going to tackle this? So, what you have now is an opportunity to make refine that decision and just choose simply the timing and the amounts of when and how you're going to be able to use that money in the best interests of...of the city.

Mayor Romero: Thank you, Mr. Townsend, I really appreciate you coming to speak with us. You are a very, very important person that's helping us manage our Public Safety Personnel Retirement System. We always talk in, you know, shorthand, but I think it's important that we call it what it is. It's our public safety personnel retirement system. Umm for me personally, the investment in the PSPRS is very, very important for the city of Tucson to keep the promise to our public safety personnel of a safe ah, and healthy retirement. Our public safety personnel work hard, and every day put their lives on the line and so us as a city to be able to fulfill the promise of a good and safe and healthy retirement is very, very important to me. And so, my job as well as the mayor, and I'm sure as a Council is for us to be able to make sure that the system is healthy, that it's well funded and that it doesn't drown our budgets.

And so I too am very curious about how the flat tax is going to affect, umm, the investments that we do into the PSPRS system and I'm what I would like to, umm, what I would like to learn for the benefit of myself and my Council colleagues, our administration and the PSPRS board, which, by the way, there's some PSPRS board members here as well. Umm is you know how, what is the return on investment? What is the unfunded liability? What is the funded ratio? I know that we show our numbers in terms of funded ratio with the 115. What is the funded ratio that we have with PSPRS, not counting the 115 Trust?

Mr. Townsend: So, the funded ratio on police and fire is both so around the mid 30%. And then you asked about our investment returns for June 30th, are unaudited returns right now are 10.34% after fees. You also have the Tier 3 for both police and fire. Those are very young plans, they're...they're in the 90%, they were close to 100. Again, those were also impacted by changes in compensation this last year that one-year increase in those liabilities will be caught up over the next several years. So, you're actually in a really good spot in terms of Tier 3. We just, we need to make sure we stay on top of Tier 3 and keep it funded while we continue to...to get that consistent funding into tiers one and two.

Mayor Romero: Well, what was the rate of return umm this past, do we keep it on...on fiscal years or calendar?

Mr. Townsend: Fiscal years, so as of June 30th, it was the 10.34%

Mayor Romero: 10.34% okay.

Mr. Townsend: Yep.

Mayor Romero: Any additional comments or questions? Council Member Cunningham.

Council Member Cunningham: Umm...what's the total? You had a total one on unfunded liability at 1.5 billion statewide in 21 we made a...made a...we made a dent on that.

Mr. Townsend: The total liability is about the same as it was a year ago. It was, it's pretty flat.

Council Member Cunningham: Yeah so...we're so the, you know, how what's that percentage statewide, ours is 30%. What's statewide on that?

Mr. Townsend: Statewide on public safety. Just public safety for police and fire, where it's 66% statewide.

Council Member Cunningham: 66% funded.

Mr. Townsend: funded.

Council Member Cunningham: And we're 30% funded. But that's not counting our trust, right?

Mr. Townsend: You're...you're yes, that's not counting your Section 115 Trust I use. Sorry I you have a lot of different trusts I have going through my head.

Council Member Cunningham: We have our own Trust that makes up that 36% probably does a little better than that, but that's alright. So, we're still staying flat and do we...we...we...we've also gotten some feedback from constituents about people that are in multiple systems and being able to transfer into multiple systems like we've got people that are in PSPRS that become teachers, or they are teachers and then join PSPRS and vice versa. There are some people that have old that are old CORP members and one of the issues that they're having is anytime they change numbers, no matter what they...they have to pay extra out of each system and there's no seamless. I mean, I understand that, but again, if it's...if it's all a state-run system and you're required to do it and you don't pull your money out and you wait till your...your time, I don't understand why you should be penalized for all that. So, I'm trying to figure out how that works.

Mr. Townsend: So, it's it basically what happens if you transfer between employers or jobs, and you stay within the same benefit structure. So, if you're a police officer to another police officer or police to fire, you have the same benefits structure. That's a straight over your years of service

or your years of service and your new job. You stay if you have a different benefit structure, so ASRS is very different in terms of how much of a multiplier you earn for each year of service and the rate of pay is different, how everything is calculated is different, and so what they really do is they say, well, what are the dollars that you have contributed to the plan, the original plan you were in. So, what are the dollars you put in so you get that money back as a refund? Essentially, and if you go to another job and you're going to get those years of service, you have to buy so it's called a service purchase. You buy those years of service, but you buy them at the actuarial rate so that that plan doesn't create an unfunded liability by having somebody transfer in new. So, you get the money that you had go into the old system and you can use that for a service purchase. But it's not necessarily a year to year for year.

Council Member Cunningham: And I get that it shouldn't be year to year, but in some cases it's like \$250,000 deltas, which I mean some people are going to make that much in their retirement. So I'm just trying to figure out, I don't really understand the...the...the formula that they're using, and I actually think that it's kind of interesting that if you're moving from PSPRS to ASRS or the multiplier is lower and you're trying to move years from PSPRS into ASRS, you actually have to pay money when the multiplier is lower and the pay was higher. I don't understand how...how mathematically that is even possible. That's what I'm just not understanding and then you say, alright, well then, I'll move from ASRS back into CORP and at the same time you have to pay money. Well, which one is it, which ones actually worth more?

Mr. Townsend: Yeah, that's well, that's a great question. But without looking at the exact numbers in that unique situation, I couldn't give you a flat answer. ASRS does their own service purchase, so we don't calculate that for ASRS. I mean, if you have a specific situation that you would like us to research to get you information, I'd be happy to.

Council Member Cunningham: No.

Mayor Romero: Any other questions, comments, Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Dahl: Thank...thank you. I'm so appreciative of the state retirement systems, both...both of them. My wife retired as a teacher and it's...it's been great, and the investment practices have been fabulous. Umm, last time you were here I kind of gave you a softball question. You might...may or may not remember it. I was talking about the concern about climate change and the calls to divest from fossil fuel industries in your investment and your report response, and correct me if I'm wrong, was understandable. You don't like any constrictions on your investment practices for whatever, calls to not invest in Israel, tobacco, there's lots of different people who don't want to do that. This year we've had the hottest year on the Earth and we're getting more and more concerns from youth, not people, some from my age. Umm, I think at some point we're going to be looking at everything and how do we divest off the losing, umm, fossil fuels and get into the technologies that will cool the planet? So, I'm not asking you to endorse that. My question is what authority has to change for you to do that is it. Within the state legislature, be able to do it. Are you in the Constitution? Umm, could your board of trustees make that decision, thank you.

Mr. Townsend: Umm, so I guess the simple answer is I would say that the legislature giving direction on that would be the cleanest path. It's not always that clean the IRS that in setting up the trust, the board of trustees and our system are fiduciaries, and so we have a duty to do. In the best interest of the members, which includes the investment returns, other factors, it doesn't say we can't consider them, but we still have to do it in the interest of the Members. Umm, unfortunately it's...it's...it's always that... that it depends answer.

Vice Mayor Dahl: I understand that I want to point out that if Phoenix is unlivable, it's in the fiduciary interest to change investment policy, but that's the last word. I thank you for your thoughtful nature is probably the right answer. Thanks.

Mayor Romero: My question is we had a really good year this year in terms of rate of return and we had a good year last year regarding rate of return. Can you explain to Mayor and Council and the public why we continue at a thirtyish percent or 30 plus percent umm, funded ratio. What are the impediments of moving out of that 30% and seeing those numbers move up?

Mr. Townsend: Yeah so, the reality of pensions is this is it's a very long-term game. It's decades to really move the needle. OK. So that 10.3% return that 10.3 doesn't all go into the trust in terms of the actuarial valuations, year one is assumed rate of return to 7.2, anything above that so that 3.1% we spread that over the next seven years. So, we're not adding 10.3 to your numbers issue, OK? So, it's going to be $7.2 + 1/7$ of another 3%. So, it's really a much smaller number. The...the pensions from a high level are pretty straightforward. When you get into start getting even a little bit into detail, they get very complicated. So, the actuaries every year they'll look at every individual in your plan. What's their date of hire, what's their age, what's their current compensation, what's your projection for how long they're going to work? What's your projection for how long they're going to live? Do they have a survivor, and they actually calculated cash flow benefit decades into the future for every one of your members, and then they take that string of payments and discount it to a present value and it's discounted using the...the same 7.2% in the reason that that's important in understanding these numbers is every year.

So, all of those total benefits into the future are going to be discounted one last year. So, your liability is going to increase 7.2% every year no matter what. So, as you're assets grow, your liabilities are also growing. And then if you have a large compensation increase on top of that, you're increasing those future string of payments also.

So really, when you look at how we spread out the returns over seven years and then that growth in the present value of the liabilities, it really is slow progress and the intent of that is also to help the employers because you don't want these huge swings if 10.3, it would be nice to have in your assets and you're against your contributions this year. But if we're below 7.2, you don't want all of that hit in one year either, because then you're going to have huge impacts to your budget. So, it's really trying to spread it out and it really is a slow game. Umm to make large adjustments in the funded status, it really is additional contributions that really move the needle.

Mr. Partridge: And...and just to echo what Mike said, there is, keep in mind, your fund assessed 34 1/2% approximately, so that means you don't have you know that 65 1/2% there earning that 10%. So, you...you've only got about a little over 1/3 of the assets, so you're really

only getting about 1/3 of the investment returns even if it were at 7.2%, there's just not enough assets there to keep pace with that growth on the liability side, so you're trying to manage both those assets and...and the liabilities from a long-term perspective.

Mr. Townsend: And I by default you you've also created another layer because now you have your section 115 on top of that. So, tracking where you are with this plan returns and then your section 15.

Council Member Cunningham: That's when we have a little more control over that and that actually insulates us. So, I actually like that we have that. I think it the interest we earn off that is higher than the 10.3% and we're able to put that back in the trust and pay our bill every year. So, I'm very happy with where we are. I don't even think that that that 34% number is actually matters because we were at 26-27% about nine years ago. So, I liked it we were, and that was without a trust. Yeah. So, we're probably right back up with the state 20 years ago, we were lagging behind because we didn't expand as much in the 80s and 90s stuff that some of the people who work for the city weren't even born yet, man. So, the bottom line is, is that for us from, I think from a from a funded, from a, from a funded liability perspective, the issues improved tremendously over the last 10 years, especially since the Great Recession.

I think we took a hit this week, but I mean, let's be honest, the markets, the markets had a 25% on our lie in the last fiscal year between July and July and we got 10.3 fund managers. So, I'm always going to question that. That's OK, I'm...I'm...I'm...I'm happy where we at and I appreciate what you guys do for the state and taking care of our people. But the end of the day, I'm always going to be trying to push the envelope for public servants, especially people who jump from different retirements from a state perspective, whether you're a teacher or you are a sanitation worker or you're a police officer and you wanna do a second career, you should be able to reap the benefits of that. That's kind of where I'm where I'm going with that.

Mayor Romero: Well and...and also explained Mr. Townsend, the pay rate the City of Tucson and other agencies in other cities across the state and the country moved very fast into pay increases. I think you're in the City of Tucson. We've clocked a 23% almost 30, 28, 29%?

Ms. Rosenberry: Increasing compensation. Mayor, is that your question?

Mayor Romero: Yes.

Ms. Rosenberry: Yeah, I believe there was roughly a 30% increase in compensation for police officers within a period of time. That was about 18 to 24 months. There was a period of time where we made some in the last six-month changes.

Mayor Romero: Last year's increase for police pay has been about 30, 30% and so explain to us what happens when we do that.

Mr. Townsend: Yeah, so that is much higher than the actuarial assumptions for compensation increases. And so just the basic math is a pension determined by the years of service and the average compensation. So, if you're increasing the average compensation, it's going to increase

those future string of pain. I think another thing to remember is you may still have the effects of that in future valuations. So, remember, the actuaries are looking at in terms of the demographics, they're looking at the compensation for your officers on June 30th. And so, any compensation increases last fiscal year are going to go into the next valuation to set the rates that'll be July 1, 2025. So, if you're going to have any additional compensation this fiscal year, it's going to be that much longer before those flows through the valuations. There's usually a little bit of sticker shock at some point away. Why did this go up this year? Well, it was from the race two years ago.

Mayor Romero: Any additional questions, comments. Mr. Manager, Ms. Rosenberry.

Ms. Rosenberry: Again, I just like to thank Clark and Mike for coming this afternoon and speaking with us.

Mayor Romero: And I know, I know also that you're making yourself available, putting some time aside on Friday to meet with the PSPRS board members, which I really appreciate you doing. Thank you so much. I mean, I think that most importantly, the communication and the information sharing between you as managers of our PSPRS system and the City of Tucson and of course, Mayor and Council is highly appreciated and we want to encourage that into the future so that we, you know, we...we know where we all stand and how we could do it together for the benefit of the system. So, thank you, Mr. Townsend. Anything else that you wanted to add?

Mr. Townsend: No, I again, I...I think that the city took a great step with the debt financing a couple years ago that put you in a really good position.

Mayor Romero: That was a good decision that now you have choices to make about how...do you move forward. I think there's a lot of other cities out there that wish they had done the same back then. No, and if there's any further questions, if you want to work through staff, would be happy to get back with you. Thank you so much. Really appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. Townsend: Thank you. Alrighty, we move back to Item 9. Yeah, get up. OK, we've got a quorum. Just wanna make sure. Umm, we're moving back to Item 9.

9. Consideration of Amendment to Tucson Code Section 10A-44 Relating to the Duties and Functions of the Redistricting Advisory Committee (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-152

Discussion was held.

It was moved by Council Member Uhlich, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Council Members Santa Cruz and Fimbres absent/excused), to bring back the ordinance for consideration and adoption at the next scheduled Mayor and Council Meeting.

(Note: Council Member Cunningham departed at 2:38 p.m.; returned at 2:40 p.m. and Council Member Fimbres departed at 2:46 p.m.; returned at 2:50 p.m.)

Mayor Romero: Time has been reserved for Marion Council to disclose, discuss a proposed Tucson code amendment regarding the factors for redistricting Advisory committee, and that we have to consider as mayor and Council so this one I think is a bit of a technical item, so I'd like to make sure that we open up the floor for Mr. Rankin to describe to us.

Mike Rankin, City Attorney: Thank you, Mayor, Members of the Council. This item really has been scheduled for the purpose of addressing language in the Code that specifically sets out the criteria that this committee looks at when evaluating different options. Potential options for Redistricting. And as you know, Redistricting is a process that's driven very much by legal requirements and legal guidelines, and those flow from the Charter. They flow from federal law, the United States Constitution and from case law, and one of the comments that came back to the Mayor and Council after this exercise was completed by prior Redistricting Commissions, is that sometimes this language in the Code that identifies the different factors and objectives that are to be sought after by the Commission can be contentious with one another or even in conflict with one another, when trying to achieve one goal.

So, for example, pursuing the minority balance voting, with power within the various wards can be in conflict with the guidance to disrupt the existing boundaries as little as possible right. So, the proposed amendment to the Ordinance would help address that by adding the language to that factor. That or that objective about disrupting the boundaries as little as possible to add the language thing, except when it's necessary to advance the...the purposes of the other factors here, and what that does is it allows consideration of options that do move that needle forward, if you will, in terms of achieving the...the goal of rough proportionality for example. So, and if the Mayor and Council is comfortable with that kind of change, which helps steer the direction of the Commission, both in this go round or any future go around, then the direction of...the appropriate direction would just be to bring the ordinance and the form that it's been presented to you back at the next meeting on the consent agenda for adoption we that we are in a year where under the Charter.

A committee is called together and to perform its work and provide a recommendation with respect to redistricting, their information will be shared with the Commission, with respect to the factors that they're supposed to consider, it does not appear that this is a year where redistricting will be required, as a matter of law because the maximum population deviations percentages aren't at a percentage that will require that, but certainly the work of the Commission is still important to look at, options to educate the Community about the...the makeup of the population in each of the City's six (6) wards. So, if there's any questions, happy to answer them. Otherwise, a motion to...to bring back the ordinance for consideration and adoption that the next consent agenda would be appreciated.

Mayor Romero: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Thank you. Um we're setting up a Redistricting Commission. Mayor, do you or maybe Suzanne knows where we are? And I know I've appointed my Commissioner unless there first next week.

Clerk: Vice Mayor Dahl, Members of the Council, we have five members appointed so far and we are going to attempt to hold the first meeting of last week in August at the latest.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Yeah, offer my good luck.

Clerk: Accepted, thank you.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Yeah, because I...I remember two years ago there was some attempts to do some balancing and there were some neighborhood opposition. And yeah, maybe again, maybe not there could be a rough right.

Mayor Romero: And we had suggested that we wanted this Commission to be ready to go one year before we had to have a, you know, a decision made because of the educational and informational pieces and because we want to make sure that the Community is engaged with the process. Umm, very similarly to how the state handles their redistricting process. Open meetings and community engagement opportunities and so, umm, we're hopeful that we can have that engagement as well, but we would have to have a decision by December.

Vice Mayor Dahl: A Christmas present.

Mayor Romero: But you know I, however we move forward, I think it's important that we follow the guidance and input of our previous commission and change the language so that we can make it easy for our new members to...to get to the objectors listed in terms of what...what the priorities are to create our Wards. Any other questions? Council Member Uhlich.

Council Member Uhlich: Thank you. Yeah, I appreciate that clarifying language. I think that and another round of education with the Community will be important so that folks really understand exactly what is driving the process to get population balance and proportionality and not to have those two viewed as conflicting, but really to make the best decisions possible on these boundaries. So, I appreciate it, I'm happy to offer the motion as stated by the city attorney.

Mayor Romero: There is a motion. Do we have a second?

Vice Mayor Dahl: Second.

Mayor Romero: There's a motion in the second. Any further discussion on this item? Yes, Council Member Cunningham.

Council Member Cunningham: So, this is just for kind of food for thought and it's not any, I think the...the...the...the...the changes that we're making and kind of where we're on the road for if we're gonna think long term visioning this is a good first step and...and ultimately right now we have a situation where we have one ward that touches every other ward and then we have other wards that only have boundary of one ward and so that's one piece to it that probably we need to look at. But the other. piece that I think is really important is how we match up on the administrative side and on the city management side. It doesn't make sense to have six different

parks, districts and six different uh public safety divisions and six different that don't line up with the Wards. Kind of doesn't make sense. They should...they should kind of line up the way we did. A good example of what we did right was when we did the last version of the impact fee where we lined it up by ward. So, there's a little bit of continuity in decision making and so that's kind of I know that's not a big priority yet and I don't really want to.

I don't want to put a wrench in the in the works right now, but I think it's something that we should think about as we over the next 15 to 20 years on how we're gonna govern the city is how do we line up some of these administrative functions with the political functions so that there's a little more continuity in the decision making. And I think there's an opportunity to do that with this set. So I'm on board with the new changes and...and I...I thank you for making the motion in seconding it, but at the same time I want to put that into something that we can think about long term on how we line that up. It would be great if word offices had a point person for each department that they knew they could go to, or they had at least or shared one with...with each other. I think there would be I think it would help in streamlining some communications between ward offices and departments, so that's...that's my input for this afternoon.

Mayor Romero: Additional comments or questions on this item. Alrighty, hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Romero: Any against, motion carries. Thank you so much, Mr. Attorney, for guiding us through this. We really appreciate it and to those that haven't appointed your member, please try and do it and then within the next week, we really appreciate it. Alrighty, as we move to item 11.

10. Discussion Regarding the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS); Presentation by PSPRS Administrator (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-147

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #8.)

11. August 2024 Update on Strategic Initiatives Related to Unsheltered Homelessness (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-146

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

Mayor Romero: I don't know. Let's see, we have the members of the Arts Council here or no, not yet, not all of them. OK, let's go to item 11 then. I have requested that this time for mayor and Council to receive an update on the efforts to support housing, unsheltered persons and how the city is addressing the concerns expressed by residents and business owners in Tucson, and we do have Mari Vasquez and Brandy Champion to do the update today. Mr. City Manager, did you have any introduction or wanted to add anything?

Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager: Thank you, Mayor. Wanted to also add that EGSD Director Carlos Delatorre is joining us at the table because they've been doing a lot of direct support to our activities in the field and we're expecting that as we continue this conversation related to services and opportunities to address unsheltered homelessness. We are inevitably going to be also having more and more robust discussion about the opioid and fentanyl epidemic going on and the public health crisis. And so, we're gonna as...as future updates come out, we're gonna be touching on those matters a little bit more directly, especially now that there's some opioids settlement funds that are available locally. And we have a...a Commission or a board that's overseeing that we want to make sure we're bringing that to you. But for today, we're just going to turn it over to Mari, Brandy and...and Carlos.

Amaris Vasquez, Multi Agency Resource Coordinator: Thank you very much, Honorable Mayor and Council. So, we continue to try to put the right work in the right hands. Since last time we were here, we have had the encampment assessors assigned to each Tucson Police Department Operational division. They are actually lived experiences so they can go out and talk with the peers and get to know the area they've been working really, really well alongside TPD. Our goal with this whole process was to be able to remove TPD from doing a lot of the first type of activities with encampments and then letting the encampment assessors both work with the sites and the individuals that were there so. Since having the encampment assessors on board, we have been able to narrow the down the timeline from a reporting to actually doing assessments from 2 weeks to actually 2 business days which has helped a great deal.

The encampment assessors offer services for individuals that they see at the encampments, which are, you know, offering shelter, updating their homeless management information system data if they have any medical needs, offering detox, things like that. They also do the harm assessment for the site that harm assessment then gives us a tier level and we follow our protocol for that. Umm, sites can be decommissioned depending on what their impact to the encampment residents are, the surrounding community and the environment. If you can see on the data, we have seen a rising number of Tier 3 encampments, which means that those need to be abated in 72 hours as well as some immediate removals. Those are sites that are in critical areas on people's private property and then with a really high level of substance use. Umm, we do only call TPD now if enforcement is needed in these areas. We continue to partner regionally with all governmental and non-governmental agencies.

We're still working very closely with the county at the Transition Center, which is able to offer services to any justice involved population again, you know, we are seeing a very high increase in the number of people using fentanyl out in the encampments, which unfortunately is showing a decrease in those individuals accepting services. The current pick count as of January when they did the point in time count, did show a slight decrease in the number of unsheltered it went from 1,501 individuals to 1,281. We're seeing like a a very small lowering and kind of a plateau, so that we're still trying to find some solutions to get that number even lower. One of the efforts that we're working on is with a Tucson, Pima collaboration to end homelessness through the special notice of funding opportunity that was about \$7.8 million for three years.

The goal with that was to do three things, find unhoused individuals, find units, and move those individuals into units as fast as we can. As of January 2nd, of this year, we have moved 68

individuals directly from encampments into units, which is, you know, is pretty impressive. However, it also has shown us a place where we can do a lot more with sustainability, trying to keep them in a unit so that they don't recidivate, and then also offering some...some conversations with all of our...our partners about how we could decongest some shelters and get people maybe into shelter as we're working with them and then move them down the line and that effort is done through city, county departments, El Rio, OPCS, CBI, the VA, Primavera and we still meet weekly about three times a week on that effort.

So, you know, we still don't have the solution for this, but thankfully we keep coming back to the table to constantly discuss trying new things, figure out what we can tweak in the system for what our community needs. Encampment Protocol works hand in hand with the housing first department and environmental and General Services. We can't thank them enough for everything that they do. They are just consummate professionals, and you know I...I...I go out with them quite often and they amaze me every time. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Director, Brandy Champion.

Brandy Champion, Housing First Program Director: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council. Thank you for letting me provide an update to you today on housing first. So, over the last 90 days, April through June, housing first to serve 289 individuals at WildCat alone 78 are residing there, 45 are adults, 33 of those are children Desert Cove. As a sentence of 21 with 21 adults and six children, and Amazon has 50 adults with 27, with 27 adults and 23 children, 50 people. So, over the last 90 days, 90 households were housed directly from shelter into permanent supportive housing programs. Umm, we continue to work on trying to find housing solutions for folks as they're coming into shelter, vouchers, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing programs with our nonprofit partners, et cetera. The mobile shower program in the last 90 days has served 298 individuals.

We go to four different sites now and we are actively looking for new sites to go to. We have a very cool thing going on at Amazon, which is Cooltainers. They're self-contained solar power box cars and they are totally self-contained, solar powered. There's one for people to come in and watch TV, play games, have a snack. Cool off from the hot weather and there's one to...to take respite in that has cots so you can actually take a nap and those operate Monday or Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 to 5:30. The Housing Emergency Action Response Team, which is our heart team that works with folks that are housed in vouchers and works to keep them housed, has successfully assisted 109 households in the last 90 days, maintain their permanent housing through intensive case management, home visits wrap around services the things that they need to maintain that housing. Crowd to home, which is a financial supplement to that program has assisted 395 households with financial supports related to housing stability and supportive services. So that's utility assistance, eviction prevention, you name it handicapped accessible bars or ramps, things of that nature so it's a very flexible spending.

There is something that I'd like to share with this Mayor and Council that you don't often get to hear. You could hear a lot of numbers and statistics, but you don't get to kind of hear directly from our clients. So, this is a letter from a young lady that sent this through the general delivery email from HCD and I'd like to share that with you if I may umm, so it says, thank you Amazon motel, that's the subject line. Thank you so much for allowing us to stay at your shelter during

our time of need. We didn't expect our stay to be quite as long, but your kindness and generosity every single day made it feel like a home. We're thrilled to share that we're embarking on a new journey.

Sheldon is heading off to college and I'm dedicated to continuing my full-time care for my mom. Your support has truly been a cornerstone in US reaching this exciting new chapter. A special shout out to Melissa, Robert and Tom. They've been absolute gems from all of us. A massive heartfelt thanks from the bottom of our hearts. We are so grateful for everything you've done for us, and we'll hold this experience close as we move into our next steps. Warm regards Jasmine and Sheldon. So that's just one of many stories, umm that this mayor and Council has been able to bring to people in our...in our Community and we get to hear it all the time. I don't think you guys ever do, and so I just wanted to share that with you and that includes my update.

Carlos De La Torre, Environmental General Services Director: Good afternoon, Mayor Members of the Council. Thank you for really the opportunity to brief you on the hard and dedicated work that our environmental services crews have performed in support of the strategic approach to the...all sheltered homelessness situation. I won't go into details and the PowerPoint I think you have it as in your packet, so I'll just provide a very, very brief overview on that. But quite frankly, is they're they're...they're strong work at the commitment to service, effective, efficient and strategic work has enabled other departments to carry out their mission and services in a more effective and proactive efficient manner.

So, for example, if we say we're gonna go clean up a particular site on this particular day at this particular time, crews are there, and he said we're gonna get it done that particular day. That work is accomplished, so we will want to the next case. So...so providing that reliability, it has been really great, not only in terms of really dealing with the issues that are in that particular location, but really addressing a lot of the Community concerns related that activity. So...so we do what we say we're gonna do and we get it done when we say we're gonna get it done. So, I can't thank enough really for... for their commitment on doing that. So...so this this work essentially demonstrates from a very different angle that continued commitment by the Mayor and Council to holistically address the Community issues and impacts associated with homeless activity. This is a follow 2022 about 2900 sites over 2900 sites have been essentially cleaned by Environmental services crew crews, so in that time frame roughly about \$3.2 million has been spent to clean up.

Obviously multiple areas in multiple locations multiple times and our crews essentially went from roughly about 3 employees to about full-time employees to 15 employees. So, this is this is where we add so we tell you how...how much we have ramped up the...the level of involvement. I know the...the PowerPoint covers really the different levels, the numbers, the locations, the type of cases, what they look like, and so I just wanted to really again provide you a very, very broad overview of...of the...the work that your environment service crews have done and really continue to be there and be committed on continue to provide that service and that support. Mayor thank you.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much. Really appreciate the three of you and your entire teams and nobody you're on. You're the one that's coordinating all of us, but I really appreciate the

incredible work you all do. You know, a couple of things um, there is a societal there are societal issues that the city of Tucson on our own, cannot fix and sheltered homelessness is one of those issues that cities across the country are having to confront and are finding ways and finding innovative solutions to try and fix.

And because the City of Tucson dove in to finding creative, innovative and evidence-based solutions to this issue, uh does not mean that it is our problem in our problem alone, and so the whole idea of bringing Pima County to the table and hiring Amaris as a what, what's your title? Multi Agency Resource Coordinator, right, we wanted to bring Pima County to the table to help pay your salary and then have department directors show up to our meetings. Umm, because it was important for me and the city manager and all of us to bring in another jurisdiction to help us with this. We've tapped into funds from both the federal government and the state government to help us find solutions, and so it is overwhelming and even though we have the beautiful stories that you shared, Brandy of human beings that were helped by us, we don't have enough to be able to help everyone.

So, we have to get to 1 layering funds from Pima County from the state, from the feds. Besides our very own general funds to be able to help the overwhelming need that we have, umm, one of the reasons that I've had conversations with our city manager, Tim Thomure, for years, we've put all of this work and the map of departments that are part of this issue is because they're still huge gaps that exist. Um, I believe you said this number before, Brandy, that a big majority of unsheltered individuals are either have serious mental illness or substance use disorders. Uh, I think it's up in the 90s percentages and so what are the gaps that we see that you all see that you know your teams and team members see that we still have to work on and I think that's why bringing additional layers of this issue to the table as we continue to provide these invaluable services bringing in the Pima County Attorney bringing in the court systems bringing in the state in terms of behavioral health services that we need thinking creatively of what the gaps that don't possibly exist yet, right?

We've talked about detox centers or the possibility of creating assisted, Umm detox centers because we, jails are no place to find solutions for those that have substance, use disorders and so I want us to continue elevating the...the needs studied, the gaps and then try and find solutions with all of the jurisdictions that have to have a role in the problem? Because cities are not responsible alone for unsheltered homelessness and substance use disorders and mental health issues, we are all...all of our societies and so therefore all governments should be part of the solution and should be having a...a seat at the table as well as their funds at the table. So that's why I think bringing the...the what's happening at the opioid settlement space and how to put those funds to work for the gaps that we have are important. So, I hope that we continue pushing the envelope and the innovation and continue asking questions as to like where the gaps are and how and who we need to invite to the table to help us with...with these issues. So, open up for comments or questions, Council member Cunningham and then Vice Mayor.

Council Member Cunningham: So, a few things and this is stuff we're already working on, but I wanna let people know we're working on it because some of the inside baseball folks have these questions and it's, if you'll indulge me for a second. When I first got on the Council, I just assumed that no one had thought of stuff I thought of, and I talked to so many constituents and

folks around the city who. They'll...they'll make a suggestion. It's a really good suggestion, except that what they don't realize that we're kind of already doing that a lot of things we're already doing. But I want to talk about Umm, I want to talk about a content that continuum of information, not continuum of care we've kind of figured that out. Everybody's got their niches and organically it's starting to fall into place, but they continue to have information. So we have an officer making engagement and they JJ on it and so they have, we have a log of that, but a lot of our social workers, especially the ones that we contract with have zero information there to track those engagements. A social worker will then go and engage and at least give them water, like not do anything clinical. Just give him water. Let him know blah blah hey, Gee whiz. But they can't say, hey, you do have a court date just a reminder, and they can't say hey, you do because they don't have access to that information in real time. And then we'll have another person come in from our own agency and they'll interview somebody who's actually already probably, maybe had some services from us, but blew their placement. And they won't have that knowledge until later on in the conversation after they've already started that process.

So, the question is, and I know we're working on it, so I'm asking about progress on this. How are we doing it and getting that continuum of information so that our navigators are our...our...our encampment experts are CSO's our officers, all have this information real time so that they have the best the most up to date and current information necessary to make conscious decisions on each case that that's my question.

Ms. Vasquez: So, one of the things that we're working on is through the homeless management information system, what we'd like to have happen is opening some of the program information to be on the first sheet that would pop up. So, for example, if Brandy was a case manager that was coming out to me, she could go through, have the information, ask you know, or do you want to take shelter? What are your barriers taking shelter? Oh, it's my, it's my family composition. I don't want to be separated from my significant other. And it can't be male, female or it's a pet, or it's my substance use there's not a low enough shelter for me to go to, and so something that we can have that we can it. You don't have to start from the beginning every time you go to help somebody out, it kind of gives you a OK, hey, Brandy talked to Maddy looks like, you know, talk to you last week, you decline shelter for this, but what if we work on, you know, getting your pet fostered for a while, would you consider that then? Looks like you also got some medical things that we can probably help you with.

And it's not starting from day one, you know, and it cause for a lot of them, they have to tell their story over and over and over to different outreach workers. So how we can work with and...and the...the information lies in the county it lands they...they hold the HMIS data, and they're willing to work with us. We're just trying to figure out what it is that we need to see for that. And the second thing is the housing attempt to locate which they call the HATL. That would be the list of individuals that are that show up that have vouchers ready that can be the information can be disaggregated and it could be shared with police officers. So for some reason, a police officer has somebody there they can pull up that HATL list and say, hey, did you know you have a voucher ready for you, OPCS is ready for and then they make that contact and they can get to the to the case manager. So those are the two big things that we've been working on, but I definitely think having the information kind of set and ready to go where they don't have to start everything all over again would be super helpful.

Council Member Cunningham: I know we're also working on a remote court and real time remote court so that folks can quash warrants in the field and stuff like that, but not even not just to quash warrants, but also at least get some understanding of their legal things. Again, when you're when you're when we're engaging with folks that are under the influence at the time, it makes it a lot tougher. And what's even tougher is that we get folks that are under the under the influence a lot, but when they're not under the influence and then in that moment of clarity that we've talked about, they're actually coming to us and they're ready. And if it doesn't happen right away, we get into this. So, we want to have that that kind of bridge that that gets us there. I know you guys are all working on this stuff, I love hearing about the updates. I think the online tracking cloud like a tracking cloud that all five groups, whether you're a social worker, whether you're with housing, whether you're with legal system, like courts, like, if you're like the PD or the PD social worker or...or if your law enforcement or if you're even fire, maybe we should we should we have to have some type of unified trackability and I don't know how we get there, it's a lot, no one else has it.

We're literally making it up right now, but I think we can probably get there where we have some continuity on, on how to track each individual. One thing I will say is this, one of the places that's been a resource for me is actually there's a Facebook page where family members are asking for people to look out for their loved ones, I urge Tucsonans to join it. It's a situation where if you see somebody, a lot of these folks, a lot of the parents or family members or brothers or sisters, they just want to know their brothers, OK and when they don't hear from them for two or three weeks, they post some pictures it probably that information can help. Pull can help us and it helps us remember that a lot of these folks that are in this situation still have people that love them and so if we can keep our eye on that, I think we're gonna be dealing a lot better work than some of the other cities. So, the those are that's my input for this afternoon, but I really want to thank you guys for coming.

Mayor Romero: Thank you, council member. We do have Council Member Lee's hand is up, so Councilmember Lee and then we'll go to Council Member Fimbres and then we're going to have to leave it there. OH, surprise me, you'll be the last one.

Council Member Lee: Thank you, Mayor and I...I will be brief. Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to obviously thank the team for all the hard work they do every single day to make this incremental massive change though that we're seeing in the neighborhood, in the community. I also wanted to specifically thank the team for the amazing job that they did, not just Brandy and Maddie, but Carlos and his team. I'm looking at my notes from May over 30 people from ESI know TPD, TFD so many different departments were involved with the 100-acre cleanup to enable the federal government to come in and start doing much needed pee fast remediation. Carlos, I have in my notes that your team removed 400 tons or 800,000 lbs. of trash and debris out of that area, so that was just another example of such a huge accomplishment that the team made to enable some really necessary things to happen in our in our Community. So great work to the team, thanks for everything that you all are doing. That's all I wanted to say, mayor.

Mayor Romero: Thank you so much council member. Council Member Fimbres and then we'll finish off with the Vice Mayor.

Council Member Fimbres: I want to thank everybody working on this Mayor. We've been doing this since last 10 years that I've been in here and I'm thanking the staff, everybody's working hard on this. My colleague of the Council yourself, Madam Mayor, you know, here's the direction Brandy Champion and come with you. With ICS came out there and did research on this, good. Keep working on this though, we have solid problem. Tucson first one, the city in the country to solve this problem. Thank you, Brandy.

Mayor Romero: Thank you, Council member and then Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Dahl: Thank you. Again, I am so appreciative of the work of all three of your and your teams. Ward 3 were like Ground Zero for people who are experiencing homelessness and people who are on the street doing fentanyl, who may or may not be houseless, and it makes, I think, the impact of homelessness seems bigger. The opioid crisis is something we're going to work on hard. I had a question that I answered it myself, but it helped me understand. You were talking about response to encampment report going from 2 weeks to two, two days and that's great, um we work with cashew a lot and creating care. I am coordinators for people experiencing homelessness to try to get them in the system and they do great work. I can't praise cashew more than enough because of staffing problems they went from. We could tell people they'll your care coordinator will contact you within three days.

Now it's a week, but it's just they're having to hire staffing. So again, wonderful work and Carlos, your team is very responsive when we get reports not just of homeless encampments, but someone dumped a bunch of trash in my alley, doing great work over there and the people who are doing the cleanups? Fantastic things, thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Romero: I promise that you would be the last one, but it I have um something popped into my...my brain. OK, the report I just running remind my colleagues and the Community the report on the individual staying at Wildcat Desert Cove and Amazon includes 62 children. That would otherwise be homeless, so we need to keep that in mind as to what these resources do, not just for individuals but for children and families. The other thing that I wanted to ask about or just comment on really is that our climate Resilience Office also partnered with housing first to distribute I what are they called, heat cooling kits with water and Gatorade and all kinds of goodies. How many did we distribute; do we know right off the bat? Today, so we've distributed, I think more than 300 cooling kids in partnership with housing, 1st and Parks and Recreation and our, umm, our office of resiliency. Mr. Thomure, did you wanna add something?

Mr. Thomure: Thank you, Mayor. Just for a quick second, I want the point I wanted to make is that's a way that literally everybody can contribute, because while the these teams, which I think for their work in the field, for example, last month, my executive leadership team, we went out and worked with Brandy and her team to put those cooling kits together but also there's care kits that have like snacks and...and water and...and sunscreen and things like that. So, there's...there's a there's the right work in the right hands, and there's also the many hands make light work, so there's always a chance to affect this outcome by participating and...and the cooling kits are example of that. Thank you, Mayor.

12. Update and Presentation from the Arts Foundation of Tucson and Southern Arizona (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-145

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

(Note: Council Member Fimbres departed at 3:29 p.m.; returned at 3:31 p.m.; departed at 3:40 p.m.; returned at 3:40 p.m.)

13. Update on PFAS and the City of Tucson Water Supply (City Wide and Outside City) SS/AUG07-24-144

Update was given and discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

14. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-139

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

(Note: Council Member Fimbres departed at 4:03 p.m.; returned at 4:05 p.m.)

15. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-140

Mike Rankin, City Attorney, announced that he would read a change into the record for Consent Item c.

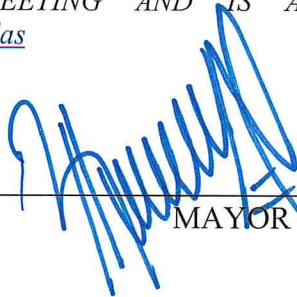
Item 7c: Mayor And Council: Meeting Schedule Update For 2024 (City Wide)
Aug07-24-211

16. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/AUG07-24-141

Mike Rankin, City Attorney, advised scheduling amendments to the MOU between the City of Tucson and other recognized labor organizations, with a date yet to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:29 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS MEETING AND IS AVAILABLE AT <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/gov/meeting-schedules-and-agendas>



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 7th day of August 2024, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:yl