

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 27, 2026  
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor Hamilton and Councilmembers Bhargava, Briar, Nieuwenhuis, Robinson<sup>1</sup> and Sumadiwirya

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m., with Mayor Malakoutian presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Deputy Mayor Hamilton led the flag salute.

Mayor Malakoutian said he wanted to acknowledge the fear, uncertainty and concern many in the community are feeling in light of federal immigration enforcement activities in this region and across the country. While federal enforcement falls outside of the control of local governments, the City of Bellevue does not participate in those activities and local police officers do not have a role in federal immigration enforcement.

Mr. Malakoutian said the City's responsibility is to uphold the community's values of integrity, respect and care in the local services it provides. He said Bellevue continues to be a welcoming and safe community for everyone who calls it home, including immigrants and refugees who contribute so much to the community. Mayor Malakoutian referred the public to the City's website for information on resources and a videotaped message from Chief of Police Wendell Shirley regarding this issue. He encouraged people to call 911 if they are experiencing an emergency.

(a) International Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamation

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation declaring January 27, 2026, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Bellevue. He encouraged all residents to join in the solemn

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<sup>1</sup> Councilmember Robinson participated remotely and left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

remembrance of victims, educate themselves about the Holocaust and to work together to confront and end antisemitism.

Regina Friedland, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee, thanked the Council for recognizing the importance of marking this day. She said today we remember six million Jews and the millions of others that Hitler deemed worthy of elimination, murdered by the Nazi regime. Ms. Friedland said we honor their lives, their stories and their humanity and reaffirm that the Holocaust was not inevitable or an accident of history. It was the result of choices to dehumanize, remain silent and to allow hatred to harden into policy. Ms. Friedland said remembrance is not only about the past but a commitment to ongoing vigilance to recognize warning signs and to reject antisemitism and all forms of hatred. She thanked the Council for standing with survivors, their descendants and with truth.

(b) Americans of Chinese Descent History Month Proclamation

Councilmember Sumadiwirya read the proclamation recognizing January 2026 as Americans of Chinese Descent History Month in Bellevue. She encouraged all residents to reflect upon and celebrate the profound impact, accomplishments and cultural contributions of generations of Chinese Americans in shaping our community.

Conrad Lee, a former mayor of Bellevue, thanked the Council for the proclamation and introduced his companions.

Gideon Fei Sun, an elementary school student, said he learned about Black History Month in school and they also celebrated the contributions of Hispanic Americans. He said those lessons were important and meaningful. He noted that Americans of Chinese Descent History Month has not been formally introduced or taught in his classes. He said he is grateful for the City's recognition of the significance of this month.

Gordon Fei Sun, also an elementary school student, said that recognizing the history of Chinese Americans is very important. He said they have helped build this country in many ways including developing railroads, starting businesses, serving in the military and contributing to science, art and education. He said this month provides the opportunity for youth to read, learn and understand the history and contributions of Chinese Americans, which helps them to feel seen and proud of who they are. He encouraged everyone to celebrate together and to share their stories. He thanked the Council for supporting diversity, education and inclusion in Bellevue.

Youlan Wang, a sophomore at Interlake High School and a student representative for the American Coalition for Equality (ACE), said Bellevue is a community of many cultures. She said Chinese Americans have played an important role in the country, including building the transcontinental railroad and countering labor exploitation and the Chinese Exclusion Act. She said the contributions of Chinese Americans are a part of American history but are often overlooked. She said she hopes Bellevue will continue this proclamation on an annual basis to ensure that the recognition becomes a lasting part of the local civic tradition. As a second-generation immigrant, she has seen how limited education about Americans with Chinese descent can weaken young people's sense of identity and lead to stereotyping by others.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

### 4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo said the total time for oral communications is for a period not to exceed 30 minutes and topics must relate to City of Bellevue government. Individuals speaking to items on the agenda will be called first and if time remains, others will be called. The presiding officer is authorized to give preference to individuals who have not spoken to the Council within the past 60 days or who are speaking to items that will come before the Council in the upcoming 60 days. Each speaker is allowed up to three minutes to speak and a maximum of three speakers are allowed to speak to any one side of a particular topic. In compliance with Washington state campaign laws regarding the use of public facilities, no speaker may support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate.

- (a) Eric Forner, representing OMA Construction, said the company was the low bidder for the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trail project (Bid No. 25095). He said the consent calendar includes an item to reject all of the bid protests and to award the contract to Johansen Construction, who was the fourth lowest bidder. Mr. Forner urged the Council to reject the motion and to award the contract to the low bidder, OMA. He said this would save the City more than \$1,275,000. He said the City's rejection of OMA's bid is based exclusively on the failure to include one single item of information on a document called the Bidder Questionnaire. He said OMA provided the required information on all but one subcontractor that refused to provide its gross receipts. He said City staff indicated in their rejection of the bid that OMA refused to provide information regarding subcontractors. Mr. Forner said OMA did not even utilize that subcontractor in its proposal. He said staff reinforced its position citing federal funding. However, he said the equal opportunity specialist from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation provided guidance that the relevant federal requirements will no longer be enforced under an Executive Order by the current president.
- (b) Arlyn Nordhorn said he and his wife are both first-generation immigrants and residents of Bellevue since 1990. He encouraged the City to consider establishing assistance programs for 100-percent disabled veterans. He said many cities have such programs. He acknowledged that the City's Utilities Department provides lower cost billing programs. He said he is 87 years old and 100-percent disabled. He expressed appreciation for City staff who have been supportive in talking with him. He said he could help connect the City with veterans organizations to establish needed programs and services.
- (c) Michael Huffman said he was homeless for eight years in Redmond before he was offered a studio apartment at Plymouth Crossing in November 2023. He said he spent

much of his work life in the tech industry, beginning with AT&T Wireless in Bothell in the early 1990s. After leaving that job, he contracted with a number of companies, resulting in short-term employment and instability in housing and quality of life. He eventually ended up homeless in April 2014 but continued to work as a contractor with a number of technology companies. He said Microsoft recently spent \$7 billion on a new campus and then laid off many of their employees. Mr. Huffman expressed concern that we are creating a society with an increasing number of unhoused individuals, many of whom are employed.

- (d) Lisa Pierce said she has lived at Plymouth Crossing for two years. She recalled that she provided comments during the January 6 meeting when the Council received an update regarding the Eastgate housing campus. She said she listened to the data that was presented and thought it demonstrated how Plymouth Crossing is engaging with neighbors and the community and seeing better outcomes. However, she felt that the good things at Plymouth Crossing were not discussed and celebrated. Ms. Pierce said Plymouth Crossing provided a foundation for her to restart her life. She feels she has been given a gift and she will spend the rest of her life supporting and helping her neighbors. She asked for support from the City and the community.
- (e) Paul Rood expressed concern regarding noise regulation and enforcement in Bellevue. He said he would submit written comments with his recommendations for the related resolution. He noted that he previously provided noise data to the Council. He encouraged a ban on gas-powered lawn equipment, a seasonal ban on all leaf blowers, a limit on noise hours in residential zoning to 60 hours per week, restoration of a staff position focused on environmental quality and the development of specific criteria for police enforcement of noise. Mr. Rood encouraged the Council to pursue input from third parties, noting that City staff do not have expertise in the physiological, sociological or medical impacts of excessive noise on childhood development and adult health.
- (f) Liz McKinney, a pastry cook and contracted dining worker at Meta cafes in the Spring District, recalled that last July she and her co-workers informed the company of their decision to form a union. She noted she has spoken with a number of Councilmembers regarding this effort and Meta's refusal to acknowledge the employees' decision. She expressed concern regarding layoffs, challenging working conditions and the difficulty in finding affordable housing. She said she asked the Council to sign a letter to Meta voicing support for dining workers and all except one Councilmember refused to support them. She said she has co-workers who are afraid to drive to work because they could be stopped by federal immigration agents. She expressed frustration with the Council's inaction, lack of support for their efforts to form a union and unwillingness to help protect workers from federal immigration enforcement.
- (g) Adam Koch, a line cook for Lavish Roots Catering in Meta kitchens, said every day is an upward battle with broken equipment and safety hazards. He said there are hood vents for ovens and grills that are not properly filtering pollutants, which caused the hospitalization of one worker. He said many workers have experienced symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. He said there is excessive smoke in the kitchen where he works whenever the

grill is used. He said workers are punished and fired for calling in sick, and notes from physicians are rejected. Mr. Koch said the contractor is trying to reject a union and many workers, including immigrants, are afraid to speak out about the work conditions. He said that when dining workers at Microsoft organized their union, the company instructed its contractor to respect the majority decision to form a union. He asked the Council to support workers in encouraging Meta to follow that example.

- (h) Juliet Dutcher, also a cook for Lavish Roots Catering at Meta cafes, asked for the Council's help to address working conditions. She said many employees work with pain in their hands, backs and knees and cannot afford the health insurance available through Lavish Roots.
- (i) Maria Hudson said her special needs daughter recently informed her that she was sexually assaulted at three mental health facilities. She said when they reported this to the Kirkland Police Department, the officers questioned her credibility, which she attributes to comments from Bellevue Police Department officers. She urged a criminal investigation of Bellevue officers and their handling of sexual trafficking, especially involving immigrants and people of color.
- (j) Dr. Sue Mercer said that at the corner of SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, an immigrant has been paying for gravel on the City's right-of-way to enable people to park their vehicles. She thanked the City's Transportation Department for correcting a number of items she has brought to their attention, including traffic signals and potholes. She encouraged police officers to notify the Transportation Department when they notice potential problems. She thanked the City for its support and noted that she is still housing individuals experiencing homelessness.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following item was approved:

(a) Council Minutes

*Minutes of January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting*

*Minutes of January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting*

- (b) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period December 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 25084 for the 2025 Water Main Replacements Phase 2 project to Fury Site Works, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$4,140,154.58, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan Nos. W-16 & W-67).
- (d) Motion to reject all bid protests and award Bid No. 25095, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail - 142nd Place SE to 150th Avenue SE project (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-86) to Johansen Construction Co, as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$17,869,000, plus all applicable taxes. This project is funded through the 2025-2030 General and Utilities Capital Improvement Programs (CIP).
- (e) Ordinance No. 6898 authorizing edits to the Bellevue City Code to make it gender neutral and amending Section 1.04.020 of the Bellevue City Code to update the grammatical interpretation rule regarding references to gender.
- (f) Resolution No. 10574 authorizing the execution of Supplemental Agreement No. 6 to the Professional Services Agreement with HNTB Corporation in the amount of \$899,984.83, plus all applicable taxes, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,225,334.89 plus all applicable taxes, to provide engineering support services during construction of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail - 142nd Place SE to 150th Avenue SE Project (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-86).
- (g) Resolution No. 10575 authorizing the City of Bellevue to administer certain housing project agreements on behalf of consenting members of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), consistent with the ARCH Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement.
- (h) Resolution No. 10576 authorizing execution of a modified Professional Services Contract with OneRedmond, in an amount not to exceed \$1,422,693.00, which shall include all applicable taxes, for the administration and operation of the Redmond Zone of the Bellevue-Redmond Tourism Promotion Area as authorized under RCW 35.101.130 and BCC 4.60.110.
- (i) Resolution No. 10577 authorizing execution of a modified Professional Services Contract with the Bellevue Convention Center Authority, doing business as Visit Bellevue, in an amount not to exceed \$2,946,900.00, which shall include all applicable taxes, for the administration and operation of the Bellevue Zone of the Bellevue-Redmond Tourism Promotion Area as authorized under RCW 35.101.130 and BCC 4.60.110.
- (j) Resolution No. 10578 authorizing the execution of a three-year agreement between the City of Bellevue and Diamond Parking Service to provide on-street

parking enforcement in downtown Bellevue in the amount not to exceed \$676,371.52, plus all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Other Ordinances, Resolutions and Motions

(a) Resolution No. 10579 regarding whether to take a position on Bellevue School District (BSD) Levies

Bellevue School District Proposition No. 1 - Renewal of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No. 405, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held on February 10, 2026, of a proposition authorizing an excess tax levy to be made annually for four years commencing in 2026 for collection in 2027 of \$88,300,000, in 2027 for collection in 2028 of \$93,200,000, in 2028 for collection in 2029 of \$97,900,000, and in 2029 for collection in 2030 of \$103,000,000, for the District's General Fund to pay expenses of educational programs and operations; designating the District's Chief of Staff, Policy, Public and Legal Affairs and special counsel to receive notice of the ballot title from the Director of Elections of King County, Washington; and providing for related matters.

Bellevue School District Proposition No. 2 - Renewal of Expiring Technology and Capital Projects Levy

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No. 405, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held on February 10, 2026, of a proposition authorizing an excess tax levy to be made annually for four years commencing in 2026 for collection in 2027 of \$64,000,000, in 2027 for collection in 2028 of \$67,000,000, in 2028 for collection in 2029 of \$70,000,000, and in 2029 for collection in 2030 of \$73,000,000, for the District's Capital Projects Fund to support the construction, modernization and remodeling of school facilities by continuing to fund technology, school facility and infrastructure improvements; designating the District's Chief of Staff, Policy, Public and Legal Affairs and special counsel to receive notice of the ballot title from the Director of Elections of King County, Washington; and providing for related matters.

City Manager Diane Carlson introduced discussion regarding two Bellevue School District (BSD) levies that will appear on the February ballot.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo recalled that the Council received a briefing on January 6 from BSD officials regarding the two levies. At that time the Council directed staff to place the item on tonight's agenda to provide the opportunity for the Council to take a collective position on the levies. Ms. Arredondo said state law requires the agenda to reflect the titles and exact language

of the ballot measures, and members of the public and the Council must be offered an equal opportunity to express opposing views. City Clerk Arredondo said only the Pro committee indicated they would be presenting their comments tonight. However, members of the public will be allowed to comment as well.

Mendi Carroll, Co-Treasurer of Bellevue Quality Schools, presented on behalf of the Pro committee and said she and her husband moved to Bellevue 22 years ago because they wanted their children to go to BSD schools. She said school levies expire every four years unless reapproved by the voters. She said the levies on the February ballot replace levies approved in 2022 that expire at the end of 2026. The estimated levy rate in the renewal levies is the same as the existing rate, which is lower than the 2023 rate. Ms. Carroll said Proposition No. 1 funds high-quality instruction and student services and enables the district to provide art and music instruction in elementary schools, nurses, counselors, mental health providers, security staff, world languages, athletics, seventh periods in middle schools and high schools, career and technical education, and after-school activities. The levy also funds needed services that the state requires but does not fully fund.

Ms. Carroll said Proposition No. 2 funds technology and capital projects, giving students access to safe and comfortable buildings. A computer and tablet are given to every student. The ballot measure funds cybersecurity efforts to keep students safe, large and small improvements to school buildings, maintenance and safety updates to buildings, and energy conservation updates. Ms. Carroll said the current levies provide 24 percent of the 2025-2026 BSD budget. She said Bellevue's vibrant economy allows residents to support local schools at one of the lowest property tax rates in King County and statewide. She said strong schools are the foundation of a strong community. She urged the Council to approve a resolution supporting the renewal levies.

City Clerk Arredondo said the Con committee did not respond to an invitation to speak tonight. She asked whether anyone wanted to come forward to speak in favor or opposed to the ballot measures.

Phil Block, a parent and current President of the BSD Board of Directors, expressed support for the ballot measures, noting that the funding supports critical components of local schools including sports, seventh period classes for secondary students, tutorial services, theatre and music education, and counselors. He said students are the future and it is critical that they receive the tools and support to be successful. He said Proposition No. 2 funds technology and capital projects, including security infrastructure in schools. Mr. Block urged the Council to support the levies.

Maggie Wong, President of the Bellevue Mandarin Dual Language PTSA, spoke in favor of the BSD levy propositions. She commented on her children's experience in the district's language programs. As a realtor, she said Bellevue's schools have a positive impact on property values. She thanked the Council for their time and consideration of the levies.

Steve Miller thanked Councilmembers for their service to the community. He commented on the importance of a strong education and noted that he served three terms on the BSD Board. He said

state funding for schools is inadequate and the levies support 24 percent of the BSD budget. He encouraged the Council to support the levies.

No one came forward to speak in opposition to the ballot measures.

- Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to approve Resolution No. 10579 supporting Bellevue School District Proposition No. 1 and Proposition No. 2. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Malakoutian noted that strong schools support strong neighborhoods, economic vitality and a strong workforce for the future.

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:20 p.m.

#### 11. Study Session Items

- (a) 2025 Human Services Needs Update and Human Services Commission's percentage allocation recommendations for all 2027-2028 human services funding

City Manager Carlson introduced discussion regarding the 2025 Human Services Needs Update and the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations. She noted this is the last Council presentation for Michael Shiosaki, Director of the Parks and Community Services Department, before he retires. Ms. Carlson thanked Mr. Shiosaki for his passion, stewardship and excellent public service.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff is requesting Council direction to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's percentage allocation recommendations and contingency plan, for action at a future meeting. He noted that the Human Services Needs Update is prepared every two years.

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said the data reflected in the Human Services Needs Update involved more than 700 individuals through extensive community engagement. This included 535 community survey respondents, 62 provider survey respondents, eight focus groups and 14 subject matter experts. Ms. Esparza said that 79 percent of the survey respondents live in Bellevue and all 62 providers serve Bellevue residents. More than 20 percent of the respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino, 24 percent identified as Asian, 15 percent indicated they are disabled and 12 percent identified as LGBTQIA.

Ms. Esparza said the common themes that emerged during the community outreach process included cultural and linguistic barriers, access barriers, financial challenges and funding reductions for providers, and stigma and mistrust. She said providers are finding it difficult to recruit and retain staff. Ms. Esparza said 54 percent of the survey respondents indicated they

were able to access a human services provider when needed and 54 percent indicated they were able to access services that supported language and cultural needs.

The nine areas of need reflected in the Human Services Needs Update are: 1) shelter and housing stability, 2) financial assistance, 3) food and basic needs, 4) survivor advocacy and safety from violence, 5) behavioral health services, 6) child care and early learning, 7) medical and dental care, 8) legal and supportive services, navigation/case management, and 9) fostering well-being in the face of bias, hate and discrimination. Ms. Esparza said the full report is available on the City's website.

Ms. Esparza said the top three areas of need are financial assistance, food and basic needs, and housing/shelter. She noted a 56 increase in chronic homelessness in King County and said that 651 Bellevue students are experiencing homelessness. The City's three-day count in 2024 identified 123 individuals living in vehicles and approximately 38 percent were children. Ms. Esparza said 32 percent of Bellevue residents are cost-burdened (spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing) and 23.8 percent of households are low or moderate income.

Ms. Esparza said 25 percent of BSD students qualify for food assistance and 42 percent of immigrant families have limited access to culturally relevant food. She noted recent reductions in food assistance benefits from the federal government. In 2024, there were 926 domestic violence cases in Bellevue and 49 percent of all crimes against persons were domestic violence offenses. Ms. Esparza said the monthly cost for infant child care in Bellevue is approximately \$3,400 and 46.7 percent of survey respondents indicated they cannot access affordable licensed child care. Behavior health includes mental health and substance abuse disorders. There were 1,044 overdose deaths in King County in 2024 and there has been a 69 percent increase in treatment costs. Ms. Esparza commented on the lack of access to medical and dental care.

In the areas of legal, case management and other social services, 81 percent of the survey respondents indicated that they have faced barriers to accessing services. Ms. Esparza said there were 112 reported hate crime incidents in King County in 2024, including 15 in Bellevue, and 223 housing discrimination complaints in Washington related to disability.

Ms. Esparza said all of the agencies that contract with the City and receive funding are required to serve all Bellevue residents. She noted the need for services that are linguistically and culturally responsive.

Ms. Esparza described the three human services funding sources: 1) 2027-2028 Human Services Fund, 2) 2027-2028 Housing Stability Program, and 3) federal 2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The Housing Stability Program is funded through a 0.1 percent sales and use tax to be used to support housing stability, behavioral health services and other housing-related services.

Ms. Esparza said the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations are guided by the Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Target Areas (STAs), Council priorities, Human Services Strategic Plan, Diversity Advantage Plan 2035 and the 2025 Human Services Needs Update.

Angela Phan, Chair, Human Services Commission, presented the commission's funding recommendations by category with approximately 35 percent allocated to shelter and housing, six percent for financial assistance, 18 percent for behavioral health, 10 percent for food and basic needs, and smaller amounts for a number of other areas of need (e.g., child care, medical services).

Ms. Esparza said the commission adopted two target areas related to disproportionately impacted communities identified in the data: youth programs and cultural and linguistic specific programs. The proposed 23 percent target for youth programs represents a goal for the cumulative investment of 23 percent of all funds into youth services.

Chair Phan said the commission adopted a contingency plan because they were forming their recommendations without having actual applications. Adjustments to grant amounts could be necessary and would not exceed two percent in any area of need. The commission recommends that additional funding will be evenly split between shelter, financial assistance, and food/basic needs. The plan includes the option to maintain two recommended priority targets: 26 percent for culturally and linguistically specific services and 23 percent for youth programs.

Ms. Esparza requested Council feedback regarding the funding recommendations and contingency plan. She briefly described the request for proposal (RFP) and commission review processes.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked Chair Phan and staff for the information. He thanked Director Shiosaki for his leadership and accomplishments and congratulated him on his retirement.

Councilmember Robinson thanked Chair Phan and the commission for their hard work and thorough review. She thanked Ms. Esparza for her work. Ms. Robinson thanked Mr. Shiosaki for his service to Bellevue.

Referring to the commission's recommended percentages for the funding categories, Ms. Robinson suggested a 23 percent target for programs and services that are designed to serve the needs of youth communities. She suggested including the same language as the Diversity Advantage Plan 2035. She suggested that the contingency plan include 23 percent for youth programs and 26 percent for "programs and services designed to serve the needs of marginalized communities and delivered by individuals or organizations that demonstrate meaningful engagement with the communities they serve, including through staff partnerships or governance that reflect community experience." Ms. Robinson said that is consistent with DAP 2035 language.

Councilmember Robinson expressed support for the overall recommendations and observed that they represent the community. She said she was pleased to see some flexibility for the commission to adjust funding amounts.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya thanked staff for their work and wished Mr. Shiosaki well in his retirement. Ms. Sumadiwirya expressed general support for the recommendations. She questioned whether there is funding for youth mental health services. Ms. Esparza said the

Housing Stability Program includes funding for behavioral and mental health services. She said King County is currently working to establish five crisis centers for behavioral health care and emergencies.

Chair Phan noted the loss of federal funding for the PorchLight shelter and commented on the struggle to provide social services.

Responding to Councilmember Sumadiwirya, Ms. Esparza said culturally and linguistically specific agencies received approximately \$2 million in the most recent funding cycle. All other agencies received a total of approximately \$7 million. In further response, Ms. Esparza said the City funds by program and currently funds 188 programs within a smaller number of agencies. She said technical assistance is available for agencies applying for grant funds.

Councilmember Bhargava thanked Mr. Shiosaki for his work and wished him well in retirement. He thanked the Human Services Commission for their hard work.

Mr. Bhargava expressed concern regarding the information about cultural and linguistic barriers, access barriers, stigma and mistrust. Responding to Mr. Bhargava, Chair Phan expressed confidence and trust in the information provided by human services staff and service providers. Ms. Phan said housing continues to be a critical need.

Mr. Bhargava suggested greater flexibility for the commission to adjust the percentages of spending for the needs categories. He said he appreciated the funding for behavioral and mental health services.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked Mr. Shiosaki for his time, dedication and expertise in serving Bellevue. He thanked Ms. Esparza and her staff for their work. He thanked Chair Phan and the commission for their significant work.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the recommendations and contingency plan. He concurred with the revised language suggested by Councilmember Robinson. He said he would like to see more Bellevue-specific data regarding human services needs.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton wished Mr. Shiosaki the best in his retirement. Mr. Hamilton recalled that Mr. Shiosaki's father was a World War II hero. He thanked Director Shiosaki for the courage he brought to his work and his mentorship and guidance.

Mr. Hamilton thanked Chair Phan and the commission for their work. He said he would like to continue to increase human services funding. Deputy Mayor Hamilton expressed support for the funding recommendations based on the commission's thorough study and analysis. He said the contingency plan appears reasonable and will provide flexibility.

Responding to Mayor Malakoutian, Deputy Mayor Hamilton suggested focusing on the funding allocations recommendations for now. Mr. Hamilton said he would like more time to consider other issues and suggestions.

Responding to City Manager Carlson, Mr. Shiosaki confirmed that the purpose of tonight's agenda item was solely to request direction regarding the percentage recommendations for funding human services by category.

Responding to Mayor Malakoutian regarding proposed revisions to the Human Services Strategic Plan, Mr. Shiosaki said that would typically come back as a separate item.

Responding to Ms. Carlson, Ms. Esparza said the percentages in the contingency plan could be adopted during a future meeting. She said definitions will be included in the request for proposals (RFP).

Councilmember Robinson said she disagreed with some of staff's comments. She said the proposed statement is not consistent with the language of DAP 2035. She said this would be a good time to amend the definition. She would like to discuss this topic at the Council retreat in February or March. She said she would like to make a motion to amend the language as she suggested earlier to refer to marginalized communities.

Councilmember Bhargava suggested greater flexibility for the commission to adjust the percentages of funding to various categories, perhaps by as much as five percent. Mayor Malakoutian said that sounded like a separate issue.

Councilmember Briar expressed support for the recommendations.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Esparza confirmed that Councilmember Robinson is suggesting a revision to the definition of culturally and linguistically specific services.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis suggested taking action tonight on the funding recommendations and discussing the other issues at a future meeting.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya said she did not want language to be a barrier for a potential grant applicant.

Mayor Malakoutian said it is important to be clear about who the City is trying to serve and why. He said the City should center marginalized communities and provide the flexibility to fund trusted and effective programs. Councilmember Robinson said she appreciated his comments.

→ Councilmember Robinson moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for percentage allocations for the 2027-2028 human services funding, and the additional proposed changes:  
1) Councilmember Bhargava's suggestion to allow contingency adjustments of up to five percent per needs category, and 2) the language "programs and services that are designed to serve the needs of marginalized communities and delivered by individuals or organizations that demonstrate meaningful engagement with the communities they serve, including through staff partnerships or governance that reflects community experience."  
Councilmember Bhargava seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton said he would prefer to vote only on the funding allocations and to continue additional consideration of the other topics at a future meeting.

Responding to Councilmember Bhargava, City Clerk Arredondo said the Council could divide the question and vote separately on the different components of the motion.

Mayor Malakoutian noted agreement to separate the issues for Council action.

→ The motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution for future action approving the percentage allocation recommendations by the Human Services Commission carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Malakoutian invited the Council to comment regarding Councilmember Bhargava's proposal to amend the contingency plan to allow the commission to adjust funding categories by up to five percent instead of the proposed two percent.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Hamilton, Chair Phan said she would be happy to have greater flexibility for the commission. Ms. Esparza said she felt five percent was too high for a contingency adjustment. She noted that even a modest increase to one category could potentially eliminate an area receiving a small amount of funding.

Following additional discussion and clarifications, Deputy Mayor Hamilton suggested that the Council defer action on this issue.

→ The motion to amend the flexibility in the contingency plan from two percent to five percent failed by a vote of 1-6, with Councilmember Bhargava in favor.

Moving to the last component of the original motion, City Manager Carlson noted that Councilmember Robinson's suggestion relates to revising the language reflected in Attachment A of the meeting packet.

Councilmember Robinson clarified that she is recommending that the priority categories be youth programs and "programs and services that are designed to serve the needs of marginalized communities" (instead of "culturally and linguistically specific programs").

Councilmember Bhargava said this is not just a change in language but it broadens the needs category. Councilmember Robinson said she had decided to simplify her original proposed language.

Responding to Councilmember Sumadiwirya, Ms. Esparza said the past two Human Services Needs Updates have highlighted the need for culturally and linguistically specific services. In further response to Ms. Sumadiwirya, Ms. Esparza said marginalized is more of an umbrella term.

Responding to Councilmember Briar, Ms. Esparza confirmed that service providers have consistently highlighted the need for culturally and linguistically relevant services.

Councilmember Robinson thanked her colleagues for the discussion. She said she wanted to change her motion to retain the words “culturally and linguistically specific programs” and to add the additional language from DAP 2035.

Responding to Mayor Malakoutian, Councilmember Robinson confirmed that her objective is to ensure consistency between the language in DAP 2035 and the human services language.

Ms. Arredondo said the Council could agree to the modification by unanimous consent.

Ms. Carlson read the similar language from DAP 2035.

Following additional brief discussion, Mayor Malakoutian noted unanimous consent in support of Councilmember Robinson’s suggested language revision.

At 9:13 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared a break. The meeting resumed at 9:22 p.m.

(b) Update on Safe Speeds Bellevue Program

City Manager Carlson introduced staff’s update regarding the Safe Speeds Bellevue program.

Chris Long, Assistant Director, Transportation Department, said staff would provide information regarding public outreach, the results of four evaluation streets where the speed limit was lowered, and a draft speed limit proposal. He said this program is part of the City’s Vision Zero effort to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

Mr. Long said one-quarter of the street network is streets with 30 miles per hour or higher speed limits. Those streets represent 88 percent of the crashes where a person is killed or seriously injured.

John Murphy, Neighborhood Transportation Services Manager, said the speed limit was lowered on four corridors in Bellevue in July 2025. He said there was a 20-40 percent reduction in excessive speeding on those streets. Outreach activities included two surveys, multiple community events, BTV video, *It’s Your City* article, invitations to community associations, individual meetings, social media, emails and newsletters. Mr. Murphy said public input indicated a high level of concern regarding traffic speeds, especially around schools and commercial areas. He said the input suggests coupling speed limit reductions with enforcement and engineering. He said the majority of survey respondents support reducing speed limits when presented with a safety benefit.

Benjamin Wright, Senior Transportation Engineer, provided additional details regarding the safe speeds study of streets with 30 miles per hour or higher speed limits. The study looked at the frequency of potential conflicts on a street and the street’s activity level.

Mr. Wright presented staff's proposed citywide speed limits, noting that 25 percent of the streets would not experience a change. Staff recommends a speed limit of 25 miles per hour in the downtown and 20 miles per hour in Old Bellevue. He said some speed limits in East Bellevue require coordination with the City of Redmond. He said speed limit implementation is likely to be phased and the City is focused on increasing the number of signs. Mr. Wright said potential additional tools include technology (e.g., photo enforcement), traffic calming measures and safer crossings (e.g., raised intersections and crosswalks).

Mr. Murphy said staff anticipates returning this summer with the draft speed limits for the Council's consideration. He said this is the first time the public has seen the proposal. He said community outreach will move forward through in-person events, online communications and other methods.

Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked about the performance metrics for the program and noted the importance of enforcement. Mr. Murphy said the initial phase is about setting the right speed limit. He said actual traffic speeds will be monitored to determine the impact of the lower speed limits.

Councilmember Briar thanked staff for the presentation and concurred with Mr. Nieuwenhuis' suggestion about strong enforcement. Mr. Wright described the concept of self-enforcing streets that are designed to help manage traffic speeds. He said the City hopes to achieve that at some point in the future. Mr. Murphy said they have coordinated the changes with the police department.

Councilmember Bhargava expressed support for moving forward as proposed by staff. Responding to Mr. Bhargava, Mr. Long confirmed that a large portion of the high-injury network is in the urban core. Mr. Long said the budget and workload will determine the pace of the full implementation of the speed limit changes. Mr. Bhargava suggested focusing on high-injury locations.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya thanked staff for their work and expressed support for moving forward.

Deputy Mayor Hamilton thanked staff for the presentation and the community outreach plan. He expressed support for the proposed approach.

Mayor Malakoutian said he was pleased to see the beneficial reduction in traffic speeds and expressed support for moving forward.

## 12. Land Use Reports

- (a) Ordinance No. 6899 - Final action on the SRM Affordable Housing Rezone application submitted by SRM Development for a rezone of a 4.55-acre site

located at 999 118th Avenue SE from Office/Limited Business to Neighborhood Mixed Use. Permit File No. 22-118369-LQ.

City Manager Carlson introduced Ordinance No. 6899 regarding final action on the SRM Affordable Housing Rezone application to change the designation from Office/Limited Business to Neighborhood Mixed Use for a 4.55-acre site at 999 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. She said this is a quasi-judicial matter that was before the Council on January 13 for initial consideration.

City Attorney Trisna Tanus recalled that the Hearing Examiner recommended approving the rezone application. She said Councilmembers must act as judges in this quasi-judicial matter. She asked whether any Councilmember wished to disclose any ex parte communications occurring outside of the City's email. Ms. Tanus noted for the record that there are no ex parte communications disclosures.

Ms. Tanus highlighted the decision criteria from the Land Use Code. She said the City may approve, or approve with modifications, an application for a rezone of a property if it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and bears a substantial relation to public health, safety or welfare. The rezone must not be materially detrimental to uses or property in the immediate vicinity and should have merit and value for the community as a whole.

→ Deputy Mayor Hamilton moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6899 approving the rezone application by SRM Development for a 4.55-acre property located at 999 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, changing the designation from Office/Limited Business to Neighborhood Mixed Use. Councilmember Bhargava seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

13. Written Reports: None.

14. Unfinished Business: None.

15. New Business: None.

16. Executive Session: None.

17. Adjournment

At 9:58 p.m., Mayor Malakoutian declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw