

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 28, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmembers Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

- (a) Recognition of Rex Walker for portrayal of Young Malcolm in Seattle Opera's *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*

Councilmember Zahn said she enjoyed seeing *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* at the Seattle Opera and was excited to learn that Rex Walker, who portrayed Young Malcom, was a Bellevue resident. The other young man who played the role was Jace Johnson who was from Federal Way, where Ms. Zahn attended middle school and high school. She said this was the first opera about Malcolm X and the first opera by a Black composer performed at the Seattle Opera. She commended both actors for their performances.

Mayor Robinson welcomed Rex and thanked him and his family for attending the meeting.

Rex, a 12-year-old, said he was part of the International Spanish Academy (ISA) program and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Tillicum Middle School. He studied choir with his teacher, Julia Meyering, who took students to New York City in March to compete at the historic Riverside Church and to explore the city and its arts. Rex said he also dances at Allegro Performing Arts Academy in Kent, Washington. He recruited his friend Jace and they both auditioned and were selected for the Young Malcolm role. He said the most exciting parts of performing in the opera were the costume and makeup areas, sitting on the moving Audubon Ballroom stage, and meeting all of the amazing opera performers and staff.

Rex said he saw X in New York City at the Metropolitan Opera during a Thanksgiving break while visiting his grandparents. He said he learned a lot about Malcolm X through the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Anthony Davis. Rex said that although Malcolm X left no published writings other than his autobiography, his words continue to make us think, inspire us and give us hope for the future. He said he was thankful to be a part of such a historical event. Rex said he will be performing in the Youth Chorus's production of Pagliacci on August 3 through August 17.

Rex thanked Mayor Robinson and the Council for the recognition and thanked Councilmember Zahn for attending the opera. He encouraged the Council to continue supporting young people in the performing arts.

(b) Award Presentation – 425 Magazine, 2024 Best City: Bellevue

Mayor Robinson announced that Bellevue was recognized for the second time in a row as the 2024 Best City by 425 Magazine. She said Bellevue has received the award three times in four years. Ms. Robinson said Bellevue is home to 97 corporate headquarters including T-Mobile, PACCAR, Pokeman and Symetra Life Insurance, and also has significant retail, dining and lodging options. Bellevue has 2,700 acres of parks and open space, more than 90 miles of trails, 46 playgrounds, seven beach parks and five community centers.

Scott Paine, Associate Publisher of 425 Magazine, said the magazine has been published for 18 years and the annual awards are voted by residents. He congratulated Bellevue on the award.

(c) Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing May 2024 as Jewish American Heritage Month in Bellevue. He encouraged members of the community to learn more about the heritage and contributions of the Jewish community and to work together to end hate and antisemitism.

Regina Friedland, representing the American Jewish Community (AJC), thanked the Council for the proclamation and noted that it is especially important during this time of increasing acts of antisemitism. She encouraged everyone to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions by Jews in this country since the first group arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654. Jewish Americans have contributed to this country as involved, patriotic citizens who are grateful for the safe haven provided in the United States for many Jews escaping persecution, discrimination and genocide. She said Jewish Americans continue to serve in the military and as public officials, diplomats, Nobel Prize winners, Supreme Court justices and leaders of universities and corporations.

(d) Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation declaring May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Bellevue. He encouraged everyone in the community to commit to increasing

awareness and understanding of mental illness and to support mental health care, eliminate stigma and to recognize the need for appropriate and accessible services for all.

Michael Byun, Executive Director, Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS), thanked the Council for the proclamation. He said ACRS was founded in 1974 when individuals were inappropriately being institutionalized or misdiagnosed. He noted significant progress since that time by a number of organizations. He said he was accepting the proclamation on behalf of thousands of individuals who have been helped by behavioral health and treatment services.

(e) Men's Health Week Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing June 10-16, 2024, as Men's Health Week in Bellevue. He urged community members to encourage the men and boys in your lives to practice healthy habits and to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease, injury and mental health.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes 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. Persons 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.

- (a) Richard Schweinhart commented on the City's recent revisions to the regulations related to the hours allowed for construction noise. He expressed concern about the impact of extensive hours of construction noise on residents including loud equipment and machines, diesel fumes, Honey Bucket odor, cars blocking streets, and dust and grit in yards and homes. He has had power lines pulled down from his house and aggressive workers blocking streets. Mr. Schweinhart said the police have been called a number of times and he has sustained damage to his property. He said property owners have not been responsive to their attempts to contact them. He said the regulations favor developers rather than homeowners. He said one neighbor temporarily moved out of their home. He asked the Council to rescind the newly approved construction noise hours. He shared photos of construction activity visible from his home.

Mayor Robinson said the allowed construction noise hours vary for neighborhoods and commercial areas. She encouraged staff to ensure that construction activity complies with the allowed hours.

(b) Alex Tsimerman commented on the racial and ethnic makeup of the community.

Mayor Robinson said the Council Rules require speakers to address City business.

Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 6:35 p.m.

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

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) 2024 Summer Recreation Programming

Acting City Manager Diane Carlson introduced staff's briefing regarding summer recreation programming.

Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said park rangers are an integral part of keeping park visitors safe and happy and providing educational outreach and assistance. Park rangers are on duty from 8:00 a.m. to midnight during the summer and interacted with more than 55,000 park visitors last year. She said 445 reservations for parks facilities have been received this year through the new online reservation process. Popular parks for gatherings include Downtown Park, Crossroads International Park and Newcastle Beach Park.

Brad Bennett, Parks and Community Services Program Manager, said there are six beach parks in Bellevue with lifeguards on duty daily from mid-June through Labor Day. The City has approximately 65 lifeguards and is still recruiting to cover all swim areas this summer. In 2023, approximately 48,000 individuals visited Bellevue's beaches and swim areas.

Mr. Bennett said the City has a number of half-day and full-day camps for youth ages 4-18 throughout the summer from June 24 through the end of August. Camps are offered at community centers and recreation facilities, both indoors and outdoors. He said 77 percent of day camp openings are currently filled. Popular camps this summer include Kelsey Creek Farm and sports day camps. Another popular camp is the architect's building and 3-D camp, where participants construct art and paper mache masterpieces using problem-solving skills and creativity.

Special events during the summer include the Lake to Lake Bike Ride, Bellevue Family 4<sup>th</sup>, Movies in the Park series, and Arts in the Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Large special events have increased by more than 150 percent from 23 events in 2023 to 40 in 2024.

Ms. Brittingham invited everyone to enjoy Bellevue's parks, trails and community centers this summer.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Excused Absence Request for June 11, 2024

Mayor Robinson noted that three Councilmembers will be absent from the June 11, 2024 meeting.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Malakoutian, Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Zahn from the June 11, 2024, Regular Meeting. Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(b) Discussion regarding City Manager Profile and Next Steps

Joe Todd, Deputy City Manager, recalled that during the Council's March 4 discussion about filling the City Manager position, the Council provided direction to staff to: 1) create a City Manager profile, and 2) hire an external executive search firm.

Juan Carlos Padilla, JC Padilla Consulting, said the process to create a City Manager profile began with data collection involving Council interviews, business community interviews, a City Leadership Team survey and a community survey. The desired qualities expressed through Council interviews included a champion for collaboration (Council, staff, community), stability, bold leadership, commitment to equity and belonging, regional influence and knowledge, future-oriented perspective, willing to challenge the status quo, and non-partisan.

The priorities expressed by the business community were: 1) continue existing relationships while building new ones, 2) understand equity across all business entities, 3) focus on growth (e.g., housing, transportation and cost of living), 4) transparent leadership and interactions with all Bellevue entities, and 5) stability and consistency.

The desired qualities expressed through the Leadership Team survey were: 1) experienced leader with a passion for government and relationships (community, staff and Council), 2) visionary leadership and support for staff, 3) focus on rapid growth in Bellevue, 4) champion of diversity, equity and inclusion, and 5) trust and empowerment of Leadership Team.

The community survey focused on equity and cultural competence, collaboration and relationship building, empathy and understanding of all residents, transparent leadership, consistency and the ability to make authentic connections with residents, businesses and staff.

Mr. Padilla said the position is responsible for carrying out the Council's policy and strategic direction through leadership and management of City staff, operating departments and functions. The City Manager is the top executive leadership position reporting directly to the Council. That individual directs and oversees the planning, design and development of policies, projects and programs for the organization, executes policy direction and is directly accountable to the Council, represents the City to external agencies and the public, and speaks on behalf of the policy direction provided by the Council.

Mr. Padilla said the key attributes for candidates are consistent with all of the input and include a bold leader, regional influencer, collaborator and relationship builder. Additional attributes include transparent, supportive, inclusive, consistent, empathetic, strong emotional intelligence and willing to challenge the status quo. Undesirable attributes include poor communicator, arrogant, dishonest, political, non-collaborative, someone who thinks Bellevue needs fixing and/or does not understand Bellevue's form of government.

The next City Manager must be adept at helping the Council craft policy and in leading staff in implementing the Council's areas of focus (i.e., housing, community belonging, mobility and connected communities, safe and prepared community, and high-quality services and engagement).

Mayor Robinson said staff is requesting adoption of the City Manager candidate profile as presented and Council direction on the next steps.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the proposed candidate profile. He said the Council needs a City Manager who can enable all team members, including Councilmembers and staff, to be productive by providing adequate support and resources to maximize the City's potential. He said the City does not need a caretaker or someone committed to the status quo.

- Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to adopt the proposed City Manager candidate profile as presented. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Robinson suggested the Council discuss next steps.

Mr. Padilla offered his professional opinion that the Acting City Manager meets the profile and would continue to be a great asset to the City. He recommended interviewing the Acting City Manager and considering a direct appointment at a future meeting, or conducting an external recruitment process using the City's Human Resources Department or an external search firm.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said that if the Council wants to revise its direction from two months ago, the Council Rules limit discussion regarding taking a different direction within a six-month time period. Ms. Arredondo said the Council would need to suspend that portion of its rules to have that discussion this evening and to consider alternative direction.

Mayor Robinson recalled that the Council previously voted to conduct a national search with an external firm. She stated her understanding that the Council could decide to conduct an interview with the Acting City Manager using Human Resources Department staff or an external firm.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated that Mr. Padilla recognizes the attributes of the Acting City Manager. Mr. Stokes expressed support for moving forward with interviewing and considering appointment of the Acting City Manager. He encouraged moving forward as quickly as possible.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Arredondo said a temporary suspension of Council Rules requires a two-thirds vote with five Councilmembers in favor.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Padilla said the scope of work communicated to him was to identify the desired attributes for the City Manager profile. Mr. Nieuwenhuis asked whether Mr. Padilla was asked to make a recommendation regarding a specific candidate. Mr. Padilla said he was not. However, through his data collection and research, it was evident in his professional opinion that the Acting City Manager fulfills the desired attributes.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed concern about changing course from the Council's previous direction. Mr. Nieuwenhuis opined that Councilmembers have been clear about their support of the Acting City Manager. However, he thought the Council had decided to take a different path to conduct a national recruitment.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Mr. Padilla for his work. She recalled that during the March 4 Council discussion, she wanted to finalize the candidate profile before deciding whether to appoint the Acting City Manager or to conduct a recruitment. However, she felt that if the profile aligned well with the Acting City Manager, a recruitment might not be necessary. She suggested interviewing the Acting City Manager to discuss the qualities reflected in the candidate profile to ensure transparency in how the Council makes decisions.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Human Resources Director Joy St. Germain said there is the staff capacity to conduct the recruitment internally. She said they just completed the process for the Community Development Director position.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian said the Acting City Manager is doing an exceptional job and he has full trust in her capabilities. He recalled that Councilmember Zahn clearly communicated on March 4 that she wanted to review the candidate profile before deciding how to proceed. Mr. Malakoutian said he is open to reopening the conversation about the prior Council vote, especially given the staffing capacity to conduct the process. He spoke in favor of selecting a City Manager as soon as possible.

Mayor Robinson recalled her initial position in favor of interviewing the Acting City Manager before deciding whether to conduct an outside search. She expressed support for taking a vote to suspend the Council Rule applicable to changing the Council's position.

Councilmember Lee said he has all the confidence in the Acting City Manager. He spoke in favor of moving forward to conduct a full recruitment process involving a national search, however.

Councilmember Hamilton expressed support for the candidate profile and concurred with Councilmember Lee about conducting a national search. Mr. Hamilton said Brad Miyake was an outstanding City Manager and he would like to build on that success. Noting the Council's previous decision, Councilmember Hamilton said he sees this as a dynamic process that can be

modified as new information comes to light. He opined that the candidate profile points to the Acting City Manager and he is pleased with all of the stakeholder input to develop the profile.

Councilmember Hamilton said the input from a number of stakeholders points the Council more clearly toward considering the appointment of the Acting City Manager. He said it is important to avoid allowing a recruitment process to appear performative. He suggested interviewing the Acting City Manager as the next step.

→ Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to suspend Council Rule 10(e) for tonight's meeting to allow the Council to take another vote on the process and next steps for hiring the next City Manager. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mayor Robinson said the motion will suspend the rule that states that the Council cannot revisit a vote within six months, unless it occurs at the next meeting after the vote was taken.

Mayor Robinson said the new information includes that the Human Resources Department now has the staffing capacity to conduct the process. She said the consultant met with staff and the community to develop the candidate profile and came to the conclusion that the Acting City Manager appears to meet the candidate profile. She said a national search could be conducted if the Council decides against appointing the Acting City Manager to the position.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the motion, noting the process and strong recommendation from the consultant. He said going through a full process that might not be necessary is not the best use of time and money. He said it is clear that the Acting City Manager is great for the job for all of the reasons that have been discussed.

Councilmember Lee said he did not believe there was sufficient new information to justify suspending the Council Rule. He encouraged a national search in the interest of fairness and the appearance of fairness.

Councilmember Hamilton spoke in favor of suspending the rule and opined that there is sufficient new information to do so.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 5-2, with Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis dissenting.

Mayor Robinson introduced discussion about how to proceed with interviewing candidates. She sees the options as interviewing the Acting City Manager using in-house staff and considering that appointment or conducting a national search using in-house staff or moving forward with a national search using an external firm.

Responding to Councilmember Hamilton, Ms. St. Germain said the Council is the appointing authority and Councilmembers would be involved in the interview process. She said staff would develop the interview questions based on the desired attributes reflected in the candidate profile.

Councilmember Hamilton reiterated his support for first interviewing the Acting City Manager and avoiding a performative process. He prefers using in-house staff to conduct the process.

Councilmember Lee said Bellevue needs to be the best and the Council needs to hire the Acting City Manager if she is determined to be the best. He said that decision cannot be made without conducting a national search.

Councilmember Stokes noted that the independent consultant has determined that the Acting City Manager meets the desired requirements. He said he doubts the City would find someone who is more qualified and knowledgeable of Bellevue and the region. He agreed with Councilmember Hamilton about avoiding a performative process.

Mayor Robinson said she would not have such a strong opinion if she did not work so closely with the Acting City Manager. However, observing the leadership and skill set demonstrated by the Acting City Manager makes Ms. Robinson comfortable with considering her for appointment. Mayor Robinson said she has a great deal of confidence in the Acting City Manager, and key leaders in the community have expressed confidence in her as well.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian reiterated his full trust in the Acting City Manager's leadership. However, he believes a search demonstrates a commitment to making an informed and deliberate decision reflecting the best interests of the community. He acknowledged that there is strong alignment between the candidate profile and the Acting City Manager. He agreed with Councilmember Lee that the community needs to be able to trust the fairness and integrity of the Council's decision process. Mr. Malakoutian said he supports a limited search using internal staff.

Councilmember Zahn said she believes it is important to interview the Acting City Manager to give her the opportunity to demonstrate to the Council, staff and the community whether her skill set aligns with the profile. Ms. Zahn suggested that the interview be conducted in a public meeting.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. St. Germain said she will follow the Council's direction. She said a public interview is not uncommon for this type of position. However, the Council's deliberations would be conducted in private.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis reiterated his prior understanding that tonight's discussion would be only about the candidate profile. However, he feels the discussion has gone beyond the scope of the agenda item. Mayor Robinson noted that this discussion falls under the intent to discuss next steps as well.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis said there is value in conducting a national search using an outside firm. He noted that national recruiters are likely familiar with strong potential candidates. He said there is value in being able to compare the Acting City Manager to other candidates. He reiterated that all Councilmembers hold the Acting City Manager in high regard.

Mayor Robinson said it sounds like there is a majority preference to first interview the Acting City Manager before deciding whether to conduct a national search. In terms of a national search, she noted a preference for using an external firm.

- Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to interview the Acting City Manager using in-house staff before deciding whether to conduct a national search using an outside firm. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Councilmember Zahn said she wants to ensure that all of the interview steps are transparent and visible to the public.

Mayor Robinson said she would like a full process including an application and interview.

Councilmember Lee reiterated his comment about the importance of fairness and the appearance of fairness.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Acting City Attorney Trisna Tanus said the agenda item description is sufficient to allow the Council to take action on this tonight.

Councilmember Hamilton said if the Council does not take this step, there is a danger of people reaching the conclusion that this is a pre-ordained decision. He said this is a dynamic process and the Council should interview the Acting City Manager before moving to the next step. He believes it adds credibility to the process.

- The motion carried by a vote of 5-2, with Deputy Mayor Malakoutian and Councilmember Lee dissenting.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:56 p.m.

#### 8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Malakoutian moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:
  - (a) Council Minutes  
*Minutes of May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting*
  - (b) Motion to award Bid No. 24030 for the 2023 Commercial Water Meter Vault Replacement project to Gary Harper Construction, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$845,372, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan W-98).

- (c) Resolution No. 10385 authorizing the execution of a three-year General Services Contract with Specialized Pavement Marking, LLC, in the amount of \$871,531.98, plus all applicable taxes, to provide annual City-wide traffic striping maintenance.
  - (d) Resolution No. 10386 authorizing execution of a labor agreement between the City of Bellevue and the Teamsters Local Union No. 763, representing Review and Inspection Supervisors employed in the Building Division of the Development Services Department for a four-year contract period starting January 1, 2024, and expiring December 31, 2027. The executed agreement shall be substantially in the form of the agreement in the Council Library.
  - (e) Resolution No. 10387 authorizing of an amendment to a five-year Professional Services Contract with Lani O'Connor Consulting Engineers for plan review services in an amount not exceeding a total of \$500,000, plus all applicable taxes, for all services performed and expenses incurred under the Contract. The original amount of the contract was \$275,000.
  - (f) Resolution No. 10388 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the sewer backup claim brought by Belmont Place Apartments in the amount of \$412,432.09.
  - (g) Resolution No. 10389 authorizing issuance of a purchase order to Questica Ltd. for a revised not-to-exceed total of \$706,920, plus all applicable taxes, for additional budget software licenses, digital budget book software and related professional services.
9. Public Hearing: None.
10. Study Session
- (a) Update on Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT)

City Manager Carlson introduced staff's update regarding the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT).

Fire Chief Jay Hagen said the Council made a significant investment in the CCAT program in the 2023-2024 budget. He thanked Senator Maria Cantwell, who helped to secure \$915,000 to fund much of the cost of starting this program. He thanked the NORCOM dispatchers for tracking Fire Department units and dispatching them when needed.

Chief Hagen said the last update to the Council occurred on July 10, 2023. At that time, the Fire Department had hired all of the mental health professionals (MHPs) and selected police officers to support the program. Those individuals engaged together for extensive training. Chief Hagen said the CCAT program coordinates with the City's homelessness outreach efforts and code compliance staff. Additional partners include a number of community agencies including

Eastside for All, Youth Eastside Services (YES), PorchLight, Plymouth Housing and Overlake Hospital Medical Center.

Captain Ryan Parrott, Bellevue Police Department, said that from September 2023 through April 2024, the CCAT program responded to 2,580 calls for service or self-initiated calls, which is an average of 323 calls per month. The most common types of calls relate to behavioral health and suicide. CCAT participated in 48 percent of the behavioral health calls and 74 percent of suicide-related calls in March and April. Over the eight-month period noted above, there were 484 calls related to behavioral health and 124 calls related to suicide.

CCAT police officers conducted a self assessment, based on their previous knowledge as patrol officers, as to how they would have handled the calls prior to receiving CCAT training and being paired with a MHP. During that self assessment, the officers looked at 880 calls for service, many of which did not involve any need for a diversion, criminal charge, or emergency room transport. However, they identified 109 calls over eight months that resulted in diversions based on their CCAT training. As a result, 27 criminal charges, 25 arrests, 8 incarcerations, 24 uses of force and 25 emergency room visits were reduced or removed due to the CCAT program's diversion approach.

Natasha Grossman, Bellevue Fire Department CARES (Community Advocates for Referral and Education Services) Program Manager, said the hallmark of Bellevue's community crisis response model is the ongoing case management and support provided by the CARES program. Case management is primarily provided by students earning a Master's degree in Social Work. The students benefit from clinical supervision and mentorship by licensed clinical social workers.

Ms. Grossman said the CCAT budget supported the hiring of an additional clinical supervisor, which has allowed the program to increase the number of students from an average of 12-15 students to 30 students. When issues are not resolved on scene with a CCAT team, a referral is made to the CARES team for ongoing case management. During an eight-month period, the CCAT program opened and assigned 143 individuals to the CARES program. Ms. Grossman shared a story demonstrating the program's involvement with individuals who agree to receive assistance after building a relationship with the CARES team over a period of time. She said that sometimes individuals are referred to King County MHPs who are authorized to take them into involuntary treatment for assessment and possible ongoing treatment.

Captain Parrott shared a story about a transgender youth experiencing a mental health crisis with his family. The CCAT officers were able to transport the youth to Seattle Children's Hospital without any use of force to get them the care they needed.

Ms. Grossman said that CARES and CCAT personnel are housed together at Fire Station 1, which provides the opportunity for collaboration and the sharing of information. She said there has been a lot of interest in the CCAT program in the community and staff regularly receives invitations to events to make presentations and meet with community partners. She said CCAT supervisors are beginning to train public safety personnel on how to handle less-serious crises so the CCAT staff is available for more serious calls. She said they are currently recruiting for an

opioid response social worker and will hold an advanced crisis negotiation training session in November.

Wendell Shirley, Chief of Police, said the Council's investment in this program has been extremely effective. He noted staff's commitment to remaining open-minded and engaged and to learning from the program on a daily basis.

Councilmember Hamilton praised the implementation of the CCAT program and the efforts to support members of the community. He said he is proud of the City's investment in this program.

Councilmember Lee thanked CCAT and CARES personnel for their dedication and commitment to helping the community. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Grossman said the City's partners include Eastside for All, PorchLight men's shelter, Plymouth Housing, IKRON behavioral health and substance abuse disorder agency, Youth Eastside Services (YES) and Overlake Hospital Medical Center. Councilmember Lee encouraged reaching out to communities representing different cultures to help them understand the availability of mental health services.

Councilmember Stokes said this is a testimony to how the City works with the community to continue to improve services. He praised the positive impact of the CCAT and CARES programs on the community.

Mayor Robinson said this is such a positive change from previous approaches to individuals in crisis. She said this is government at its best and noted that this does not happen without government support.

Deputy Mayor Malakoutian thanked staff for the update and for making a significant step in support of Bellevue's commitment to a holistic and compassionate approach to community safety. He said the CCAT and CARES programs are changing lives and directing resources where they are needed.

Responding to Mr. Malakoutian regarding potential improvements or enhancements, Chief Shirley said the CCAT program has been in operation for approximately eight months and Bellevue is closely monitoring other jurisdictions that have a 988 crisis line social worker within their 911 dispatch centers. Chief Shirley noted the current effort to add an opioid response social worker to the MHP team.

Ms. Grossman said they are collecting data and looking at things like the busiest times in terms of number of calls and staffing needs. She said the budget includes funds for ongoing professional development and the social workers complete education annually to maintain their licenses.

Councilmember Zahn said the CCAT program provides the right help at the right time to save lives. She commended the collaborative aspect of the program. She said she appreciated seeing the data regarding diversions and the plan to hire an opioid response social worker.

Following up on Councilmember Lee's comment about outreach to diverse communities, Councilmember Zahn asked whether the CCAT program addresses cultural and linguistic differences. She said she wants to be sure the program has adequate funding in the next budget.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Chief Hagen noted the City's receipt of opioid settlement funding, which will be used to add the opioid use disorder outreach social worker, provide ongoing services to individuals using opioids and to establish contracts with culturally and linguistically significant human services providers. In further response to Ms. Zahn, Chief Hagen said 988 crisis line workers are involved in two regional dispatch centers. Bellevue staff is monitoring those arrangements to determine whether it might be effective with NORCOM.

In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Chief Shirley said the CCAT program does not currently have 24-hour coverage. He said they continue to monitor whether more staffing and hours of service are needed.

In further response to Ms. Zahn, Captain Parrott said the CCAT program emblem was designed by the MHPs and police officers and reflects the strong collaboration between the Fire and Police Departments.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis commended CCAT personnel for their incredible work. He expressed an interest in hearing in the future what staff might need to enhance the program, including additional training or other resources.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Captain Parrott said he would follow up with more information about the 109 diversions and whether opioids or other drugs were involved. In further response, Chief Shirley said that diversions in which individuals are referred for assistance or treatment make the community safer. He said they can prevent an individual in crisis from committing crimes or from becoming a victim of a crime.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed an interest in data regarding the number of repeated contacts with individuals.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone and noted the Council's commitment to continuing to support the programs.

11. Land Use Reports: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolution and Motions: None.
13. Written Reports: None.
14. Unfinished Business: None.
15. New Business: None.
16. Executive Session: None.

17. Adjournment

Mayor Robinson said the June 4 meeting has been canceled because she and Deputy Mayor Malakoutian will both be absent.

At 8:41 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

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