

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 7, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee¹, Robertson, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Councilmember Lee's remote participation in tonight's meeting. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

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

(a) Transgender Awareness Week Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale read the proclamation recognizing November 13-19, 2022, as Transgender Awareness Week in Bellevue and encouraged all residents to participate in activities that raise awareness for transgender issues. The Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2022, honors all transgender and gender non-conforming community members lost to violence across the country.

Dr. Linda Whitehead, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, shared a quote by the founder of the Transgender Day of Remembrance expressing that transgender people should have the right to simply exist as themselves and to be their authentic selves without being subject

¹ Councilmember Lee participated remotely.

to any cruelty. Dr. Whitehead said that on November 17, City staff will remember and read the names of transgender community members who have been lost to violence. The public may stream the event live on Bellevue TV from noon until 1:00 p.m.

(b) Human Rights in Iran and Everywhere Proclamation

Councilmember Robertson read the proclamation declaring Bellevue's support for human rights in Iran following the death of a young Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, after she was arrested for an alleged violation of Iran's strict dress code for women. Bellevue supports the right of women and girls everywhere to be free from oppression and to be able to live without fear of violence or persecution.

Saghar Amini noted that people in Iran and around the world have been protesting the death of Ms. Amini over the past 53 days. She said Bellevue is the adopted home of many Iranians, who live in a dual state of hope and despair as they see parallels between what is happening in Iran and here in the United States. She thanked Mayor Robinson and the Council for their continued support and for attending local rallies. She thanked the Bellevue Police Department for its assistance in coordinating the rallies. She shared a phrase from her native Turkish that translates to "Sacrifice and live short, but live free and live with dignity."

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Brigitta Witt expressed her opposition to the proposed Isola development in the Lakemont area. She expressed concern about the plan to build luxury homes in a significant wildlife area in Bellevue. She noted that she is a member of the Save Coal Creek steering committee. Ms. Witt said she would submit her full comments in writing to the Council.
- (b) Hal Ferris, a Bellevue representative for the Eastside Affordable Housing Coalition, said he is a past Chair of the Bellevue Planning Commission and a former member of the 2017 affordable housing technical advisory group (TAG). He said he has advised nine cities in Washington and Idaho regarding affordable housing tools, and mandatory affordable housing is necessary to be successful in housing efforts. He said the performance and fee-in-lieu requirements should be set to encourage development to the higher density allowed by a revised Land Use Code. He noted that surrounding cities (i.e., Redmond, Kirkland, Seattle, Shoreline) have increased their zoning capacity to support the development of affordable housing. Mr. Ferris suggested that the City hire a third party to calibrate the performance requirements relative to the change in development capacity under consideration. He noted the potential to create a thriving

neighborhood in the Wilburton commercial area with pedestrian-friendly streets and housing at different affordability levels.

- (c) Jodie Alberts, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, thanked City staff for their ongoing efforts related to the Next Right Work affordable housing initiative. She said a fee in lieu option should be calibrated in a way that does not discourage or delay residential development. Two critical considerations are how the fee will interact with other affordable housing policies and whether the chosen mixture of policies is damaging to the residential development market. She noted that several major employers are reevaluating their workspace needs. She said it is imperative to maintain a healthy and lucrative development environment to continue to produce housing. Ms. Alberts said the Chamber is concerned about the potential for mandatory affordable housing programs and their ability to adapt to changing economic conditions. She said the City of Portland, Oregon, enacted a mandatory inclusionary housing program and suffered a significant decline in housing production. She encouraged the City to conduct further analysis to evaluate the anticipated performance of affordable housing tools in different neighborhoods. She said the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program has had a positive impact on increasing the housing stock. She thanked the City for its work to develop effective solutions to the housing crisis.
- (d) Jesse Simpson, Government Relations and Policy Manager for the Housing Development Consortium (HDC), said the consortium convenes the Eastside Affordable Housing Coalition, which includes more than 35 affordable housing providers, community service providers, advocates and other organizations. He said they are committed to working with the City to increase the number of affordable homes in Bellevue. He encouraged the City to adopt mandatory inclusionary zoning as well as substantial upzones to encourage the development of affordable housing. Mr. Simpson said that pairing affordability requirements with upzones leverages the potential for private real estate development, produces more affordable homes, and creates mixed income communities. He said a number of cities have adopted mandatory inclusionary zoning including Redmond, Kirkland and Seattle. Bellevue had mandatory inclusionary zoning for five years in the early 1990s, which produced more than three times as many affordable housing units than the bonus incentive program has produced over the past 20 years.
- (e) Alison Evans encouraged the City to acquire the Isola development property in the Lakemont area to protect the open space for future generations. The property is adjacent to Cougar Mountain Regional Park and the Coal Creek Natural Area. She said that building 35 luxury homes at the location will negatively impact wildlife habitat. She expressed concern about the potential impacts of stormwater runoff on salmon and other aquatic life. Ms. Evans suggested that the Isola developer should be required to prepare a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). She said the checklist they previously submitted was incomplete and inaccurate. She thanked the Council for considering working with King County to potentially change the Isola development plans.
- (f) Christopher Randels, speaking on behalf of Complete Streets Bellevue, thanked the City for its Bellevue Safe Access for Everyone (B-SAFE) grant application. The City's

proposal reflects a vision to improve mobility and safety for all transportation system users. Mr. Randels said that if the City receives the federal grant, it will be transformational for Bellevue's growth neighborhoods. It would bring 14 miles of protected bike paths and help the City complete its bicycle network. He noted that Complete Streets Bellevue signed a regional letter in support of the grant application. He urged the City to continue to prioritize policies and funding for multimodal transportation options.

- (g) Alex Zimmerman said the City of Seattle and King County are examples of fascism. He said the Seattle City Council, King County Council and other agencies do not allow freedom of speech. He asked about the Bellevue City Council's policy of limiting oral communications to a total of 30 minutes per meeting.
 - (h) Rayma Norton, representing Save Coal Creek, encouraged the City to preserve the open space identified for the Isola development in the Lakemont area as a vital natural and cultural resource. She is currently participating in the Bellevue Essentials class, which encourages civic engagement. She said the Comprehensive Plan has stewardship goals, including the protection of high-functioning parks and trails. She spoke to the importance of maintaining a vital wildlife corridor and preserving the remnants of the area's coal mining history. She said the Isola property has 73 mature trees and is home to numerous bird species. She asked the Council to preserve the 12-acre parcel as part of the Coal Creek Natural Area for future generations.
 - (i) Patrick Bannon, President of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), expressed support for continued efforts to develop the Grand Connection project. He said the BDA has centered its strategic plan work around activating public spaces, including the Grand Connection.
 - (j) Bill Finkbeiner said he is excited about the Grand Connection project, which will provide critical infrastructure for pedestrian and bike mobility. He said he is a property and business owner in the Wilburton area and he serves on the Eastrail Partners board. He thanked the Council for moving forward with Grand Connection planning.
 - (k) Pamela Johnston said she wanted to talk about gaining 3,500 acres of open space in King County for only \$8 million per year. Category 143 of the Public Benefits Rating System (PBRs) reflects 6,342 acres that are exempt from taxes. She said Willows Golf Course pays less money than many other golf courses that are exempt from paying taxes on a portion of their properties. She said many golf courses do not have that tax benefit, including the Glendale Country Club in Bellevue. Ms. Johnston noted opportunities for the City to gain open space through the PBRs.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
 6. Report of the City Manager

(a) Grand Connection Program Update

City Manager Brad Miyake opened staff's update regarding the Grand Connection program.

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the Grand Connection project includes Phase 1 centered on the Downtown and Phase 2 centered on the Wilburton area. He noted that major employers have committed to providing public gathering spaces along the Grand Connection. He said the Wilburton code work will be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. Funding from multiple sources will be required to complete the Grand Connection, with private redevelopments delivering key segments of the project that extends from Meydenbauer Bay to the Wilburton area and Eastrail.

Mr. Canedo said the budget proposal includes \$2.5 million to move forward with the design of the I-405 overcrossing. Amazon donated an additional \$2.5 million to help achieve 30-percent design, which will provide the initial bridge for the I-405 crossing to be developed into a lid park in the future. The Grand Connection project will improve non-motorized mobility, enable and improve private redevelopment efforts, and provide public spaces and programming. Mr. Canedo said a request for proposals (RFP) for the 30-percent design work will be issued in the first quarter of 2023. The City hopes to finalize the 30-percent design for the bridge in 2024.

Pearl Leung, Public Policy Manager, Amazon, said Amazon was one of the early adopters of the Grand Connection design guidelines in its Bellevue 600 development to activate the pedestrian corridor adjacent to the building. She noted Amazon's donation of \$2.5 million to support the formal design process for a bike and pedestrian bridge over I-405. She said Amazon will also donate conceptual drawings and a bridge feasibility report commissioned by Amazon for the City's use, if desired. Ms. Leung said the Grand Connection project will connect Bellevue's urban areas across I-405 and become a signature defining feature. She noted a previous \$7.5 million donation from Amazon to close the funding gap for two portions of the Eastrail in Bellevue. Ms. Leung thanked KG Investment Properties, Lane Partners, the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), Eastrail Partners and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce for their partnership.

Mayor Robinson thanked Amazon for its contribution and for being such a good community partner to Bellevue. She said the Grand Connection project will connect downtown to the Wilburton area and East Bellevue. She welcomed public-private partnerships and encouraged interested parties to contact the City's economic development staff.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Robertson said she would like more people to be able to speak during oral communications, and Council Rules allow moving frequent speakers to the end of the weekly list. She said Alex Zimmerman speaks and spews his hatred at every Council meeting, which is his constitutional right. However, Ms. Robertson suggested using the Council Rules to prioritize individuals who do not typically comment to the Council.

8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis 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 October 24, 2022 Regular Meeting
 - (b) Motion to award Bid No. 22042 for 2022 Pipe Defect Trenchless Repair to Insituform Technologies LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$3,356,002.28, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan Nos. D-64 and S-24).
 - (c) Ordinance No. 6686 related to parking in residential permit parking zones; amending Section 11.23.020 of the Bellevue City Code to remove the exemption that allows people to park or re-park in residential permit parking zones on either side of a public street within the same block for a period exceeding 24 consecutive hours; and establishing an effective date.
 - (d) Resolution No. 10155 authorizing execution of an amendment to a Modified General Services Contract with Pacific Office Automation, for an additional 2-year term and an amount not to exceed \$262,612.32, plus applicable taxes, for lease of copier equipment, related software, and maintenance services.
 - (e) Resolution No. 10156 authorizing execution of an agreement with Seattle Police Department to accept emergency response equipment valued at \$112,065 purchased through a federal Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant.
 - (f) Resolution No. 10157 authorizing execution of a five-year commercial lease agreement between the Together Center, a Washington nonprofit corporation, and the City of Bellevue, on behalf of and as administering agent for A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH).

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Final Public Hearing on 2023-2024 Budget and 2023-2029 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan

City Manager Miyake recalled that previous public hearings were held on May 23 and August 1. Following the public hearing, staff is seeking questions from the Council for follow-up on November 14.

Toni Call, Director of the Finance and Asset Management Department, said that adoption of the budget is tentatively set for November 21. She recalled that the City Manager presented his

preliminary budget to the Council on September 26 and discussions were held throughout October.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

City Clerk Arredondo noted that 131 written comments regarding the budget were included in the Council's desk packet.

The following individuals provided public comment:

1. Bill Hetherington thanked the Council for supporting funding in the budget for an apprenticeship utilization program. He thanked the Council for listening to members of the community and the building trades as they advocated for the program. He said the program will provide opportunities for young men and women to begin their careers. He noted joint efforts with the Bellevue School District, including the state-registered pre-apprenticeship program at Interlake High School. He said the King County Council is expected to approve funding for capital improvements at Interlake High School for the program.
2. Guillermo Rivera said he was speaking on behalf of Eastside for All, a racial equity and social justice organization in East King County. He spoke in favor of recommendations by A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) regarding tenant protections. He noted coordinated efforts to preserve affordable housing and to protect tenants from unreasonable rent increases. He said neighboring cities have adopted ARCH's recommendations, including Burien, Kirkland and Redmond.
3. Ruth Lipscomb asked the City to fund an impartial study of the City's 911 call data by an experienced national partner. She expressed an interest in which response options or combination of options by Police and non-Police units would best fit the needs of our neighbors, especially those experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis. She said the City should fund an objective look at the 911 call data to inform decisions around mental health crisis response. She encouraged a similar independent study of the proposed Police transit unit. She asked the Council to fully fund environmental stewardship program needs.
4. Villette Nolon, Executive Director for the Bellevue Police Foundation, said she lives in the Somerset neighborhood. She expressed support for the proposed Police Department and Fire Department budgets. She thanked the Council for their hard work and for listening to the community. She expressed support for the proposed Police transit unit and the Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT). She noted the need for additional officers to address retail and residential theft.

5. Betsi Hummer said people in Bellevue deserve to be safe and to feel safe. She asked the Council to fund a minimum of 19 Police officers, including the CCAT program, East Link transit unit and other resources. She commented on the significant growth in population and workers in Bellevue in recent years and noted a 37 percent increase in public safety calls for service since 2012. She said there has been a 19 percent increase in crime over the past five years. However, the number of Police officers increased by only 3.3 percent.
6. Craig Spiezle continued Ms. Hummer's presentation. He said the City of Bellevue has responded very effectively to priority 1 calls within an average of 3.5 minutes, while King County's average response time is more than 13 minutes. He expressed support for the proposed Police transit unit. He said many studies indicate that crime increases with the introduction of transit services. He encouraged the Council to consider eliminating non-essential programs to avoid excess taxes.
7. Anne Coughlin urged the Council to hire at least 21 Police officers, noting the increase in crime since 2017. She expressed support for funding the Police transit unit. She suggested the adoption of standards to address increasing litter on streets and in green spaces. She suggested that the Council approve an ordinance to address graffiti.
8. Alexa Rehr said she lives in downtown Bellevue and is a current member of the Bellevue Police Department's Citizens Academy. She expressed support for adding officers to keep pace with the significant growth in recent years, including the addition of the Police transit unit.
9. Paul Clark expressed support for the proposed Police transit unit, which he believes is necessary to make light rail a success. He lives and works in downtown Bellevue. He expressed concern about the increase in crime and anti-social behavior and expressed support for the CCAT program. He encouraged Bellevue to uphold its tradition of strong public safety.
10. James Fulop spoke in opposition to the proposal to create a Police transit unit. He said the armed officers at transit stations in New York City made him nervous and he does not want to create that kind of atmosphere in Bellevue. He asked why a special transit unit is needed versus using regular officers.

At 7:23 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at approximately 7:41 p.m.

11. Lorraine Stewart, an Issaquah resident, said she often rides, walks and runs in Bellevue. She expressed concern regarding the increase in serious accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. She said she was the victim of one of those accidents in 2016, which has left her with permanent injuries. She asked the Council to increase funding for the Vision Zero program to the original proposed amount of \$500,000 per year.

12. Alecia Sebastian expressed concerns regarding the impacts of climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She encouraged the community to work together to achieve the City's goals. She urged the Council to fully fund staff and other resources to expedite the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.
13. Pamela Johnston talked about being intentional about the community and its values. She said Bellevue tries to do that but sometimes we go beyond our borders and forget what is special about Bellevue. She asked the Council to consider first responders a top priority. She noted her interest in tree regulations, sign codes, Airbnb units and other issues. She spoke to the importance of trust and having a caring, competent and honest government. She encouraged continued collaboration with the community.
14. Katie Wilson, General Secretary of the Transit Riders Union, expressed concern regarding the budget proposal to create a Police transit unit. She said the union is not convinced that this is the best use of resources. She said many studies have failed to find an increase in crime due to the opening of transit facilities. She commented regarding police use of force and racial equity. She suggested using the funds proposed for the Police transit unit to increase funding for human services and affordable housing.
15. Lara Gardner, a Lake Hills resident, expressed support for the City's healthy streets program, noting that she lives on one of the designated healthy streets. She expressed concern, however, regarding high traffic speeds on residential streets. She said it would be helpful to have a safe pedestrian and bike connection to the Crossroads shopping area one mile from her home. She asked the Council to increase funding for the Vision Zero program to \$500,000 per year.
16. Maryanne Halverson, a Bridle Trails resident, said her family has been following the Comprehensive Plan and Budget processes remotely over the past year. She thanked City Manager Brad Miyake and staff for their work. She expressed support for the Police Department's proposed budget given the increase in crime.
17. Matt Jack, representing the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), thanked the City for its public engagement process related to the budget. He said the budget is transparent about the proposed tax increases and how the funds will be used. He said the budget maintains services to match the increasing demands of a growing city and builds on prior investments by advancing capital projects with lasting public benefits. He expressed support for the multimodal network improvements, funding for long-term planning initiatives, funding for partnerships in placemaking and arts programming, park funding, intentional public safety programs, increased funding for implementing the Affordable Housing Strategy, and commitments to enhance efficiencies in resources for development review and permitting.
18. Wendy Tyner, representing Wintergrass Music Festival, thanked Councilmembers for their ongoing support over the past 12 years. She noted a decrease in the City's contribution over the past year while the festival budget almost doubled to \$729,500. She asked the Council to boldly increase funding for the arts grants budget. She described the

significant economic impact of arts and cultural facilities within the community. She encouraged everyone to come to Wintergrass in late February.

19. Al Rosenthal expressed support for an increase in the number of police officers. He expressed concerns regarding the low-barrier housing project in the Eastgate area and overall crime and public safety. He noted the need for more officers in the Factoria and Eastgate retail areas. He said crime has increased significantly in downtown Redmond as the number of people experiencing homelessness has grown. He expressed concern about rampant shoplifting and theft.
20. Vishnu Mangipudi, a freshman in high school, said he is the co-chair of the Bellevue Youth Link Climate Action Team. He spoke to the importance of advocating for a cleaner and more sustainable future. He thanked the Council for approving and providing funding to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan. However, he encouraged additional funding to achieve climate goals. He suggested a focus on the building and transportation sectors, where approximately 85 percent of Bellevue's current emissions are produced. He urged the Council to fully fund the Environmental Stewardship Plan.
21. Allison Howes encouraged the Council to strongly consider funding a mental health crisis team that does not rely on a police response when one is not warranted. She said such an approach has been found to be overwhelmingly safe. She said the arrival of police officers can increase the trauma of an already difficult situation. She noted the importance of 911 dispatch protocols and training. In some cases, clinicians are part of the dispatch team. She urged the Council to fund a community response team as part of the CCAT program.
22. Sally Fouche expressed support for the People for Climate Action group. She noted her background in technology and education and expressed concern regarding the need for mental health services for youth. She asked the Council to set aside money for a national consultant to conduct a data analysis of Bellevue's 911 data to prepare to pilot and implement community responder teams in addition to CCAT program teams. She said the use of community responders can help free up time for police officers to focus on their core work.
23. Michael Moberly said he recently retired as the Director of Programs and Services for Congregations for the Homeless. He asked the Council to support the budget for emergency services including the Bellevue Police Department CCAT program. He said the presence of uniformed officers can increase the distress of someone experiencing a mental health crisis. He said pairing a social worker or mental health professional with a police officer who is not in uniform has proven to be an effective approach.
24. Heather Kelley expressed support for the CCAT program. However, she questioned whether it is the best way to meet the needs of individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. She encouraged the City to fund a community responder pilot program involving mental health professionals who respond to calls without police officers.

25. Chris Marks, representing People for Climate Action (PCA), commended the increased budget for the Environmental Stewardship Program in 2023-2024. She recalled City staff talking in the past about the impacts of the transportation and building sectors on greenhouse gas emissions and noted that PCA shares their concerns. Ms. Marks encouraged more funding for community wide efforts, versus City organization efforts, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She said Bellevue is not on track to meet its goal of reducing community wide emissions by 50 percent by 2031.
26. Barbara Braun continued Ms. Marks' presentation. She said nearly a quarter of Bellevue's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by commercial buildings, residential buildings and the transportation system. She said the state's Clean Building Act is addressing energy performance standards in commercial buildings with more than 20,000 square feet. However, cities are left to address existing residential buildings and commercial buildings with less than 20,000 square feet. Ms. Braun referred to the King County wedge analysis provided in the meeting packet. She said a consultant was hired to provide free assistance to large commercial building owners to help them comply with the state performance standards. She said building programs should be launched in 2023 to reach the 2031 goal.
27. Court Olson added to Ms. Braun's comments. He said PCA has been coordinating with City staff regarding the budget proposals and has researched how other cities have reduced greenhouse gas emissions. He said PCA developed a plan for amending the allocations to fill the emissions gap not covered by Washington state law. He suggested that the City spend at least \$7.3 million on community wide efforts to reduce emissions. He said a larger portion of the budget supports the City's efforts to reduce its own emissions. He thanked the Council for the increased funding for the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. He said, however, that more needs to be done.
28. Mary Pat Byrne referred to the recommendations of the Arts Commission for the annual grant funding to artists and arts groups working in Bellevue. She recalled that she worked as the arts manager for the City for 28 years and retired in 2015. She said it is exciting to see the increase in the number and diversity of arts organizations applying for funding. She expressed concern that arts funding has not kept pace with growth. She commented on the benefits of the arts for the community and encouraged an increase in arts funding.
29. Heidi Dean referred to the comments made earlier by Craig Spiezle and Betsi Hummer regarding crime. Ms. Dean expressed support for a Police transit unit. She commented on recent crimes, including a serious attack at the Bellevue Transit Center. She thanked the individuals advocating for the City to establish a trades apprenticeship program.
30. Sam Basta said he owns commercial property next to Bannerwood Park. He applauded the City for its role in developing the Eastgate men's shelter and for supporting transit services. He said both will bring changes to the community and it is vital to support police officers while also helping those in need.

31. Kylie Shulman, a sophomore at Newport High School, described how climate change is affecting every aspect of our lives. She said she is happy to see more funding allocated to the Environmental Stewardship Initiative. However, she encouraged increased funding. She said the City needs to work toward lowering energy costs, implementing easier and more successful ways to move around the city and ensuring cleaner air for people with health conditions such as asthma.
32. Christopher Randels, speaking on behalf of Complete Streets Bellevue, commented regarding safety and data-informed decisions. He urged the Council to increase funding for the Vision Zero program to \$500,000 per year. He spoke against the proposal for a Police transit unit. He cited studies indicating no increase in crime rates around transit stations in other cities.
33. Matt Gleason spoke in opposition to the proposed Police transit unit. He expressed concern about the arrest of shoplifters instead of exploring their underlying issues. He noted that arresting people, including the organized retail rings, does not stop shoplifting. He encouraged funding for mental health services and affordable housing.
34. Angelica Graham, representing Eastside for All, said their position as a community response organizer focuses on increasing a stronger sense of belonging for Black and Brown community members in East King County. Referring to the CCAT program, they encouraged the City to allow more time for information gathering. They said the CCAT program does not properly address the impacts or efficacy of its crisis response model on Black and Brown community members. They said the stakeholders consulted during the CCAT pilot program did not include community-based leaders in Black, Brown and immigrant communities. They said the CCAT program did not mention culturally responsive approaches or linguistic access despite the fact that 40 percent of Bellevue residents were born outside of the United States. They encouraged the City to gather input from community members with lived experiences to involve them in the community and to ensure their needs are being properly addressed. They encouraged a 911 data analysis to compare the need for a police response versus a mental health professional response. They encouraged the Council to consider a community response model instead of the CCAT model in which social workers respond with Police and/or Fire personnel.
35. Joy Randall said she is a community volunteer for a number of mutual aid groups that support the unhoused and low-income community members in the region. She asked the Council to not invest in the proposed Police transit unit. She said a number of studies have demonstrated that transit service does not increase crime. She expressed concern regarding the number of Black and Brown individuals arrested in Bellevue.
36. Marlene Meyer thanked the Council for listening to everyone tonight. She described incidents involving her son and police officers, who were helpful but suggested she needed to learn how to be a better parent. She said her son has graduated and is now managing special needs programs. She expressed support for both police and mental

health responses in the community. Ms. Meyer urged the City to more aggressively address greenhouse gas emissions related to buildings and the transportation system.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for their input.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 9:02 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 9:12 p.m.

Mayor Robinson invited Councilmembers to ask questions and/or request information for staff follow-up before adoption of the budget.

Councilmember Zahn thanked the public for their comments and observed that the proposed budget is a growth-oriented budget. She noted comments during the public hearing thanking the City for funding the Environmental Stewardship Initiative while also speaking to the need for a higher level of funding. She asked what it would take to have a more balanced budget between the City efforts and the community wide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms. Zahn asked what it would take to increase funding for the Vision Zero program to \$500,000 per year. She asked whether grant funding would be necessary.

Councilmember Robertson joined Ms. Zahn in thanking the public for their robust and comprehensive engagement. Ms. Robertson said she supports the Police and Fire budgets as proposed. She said the budget funds positions but the design of programs occurs later. She said the Police Department has a number of vacancies and she wondered whether there is adequate funding to recruit and train officers. She said it is hard to hire police officers. She would like more discussion in the future about potentially providing additional funding.

Ms. Robertson spoke in favor of increased funding for the arts and voter approval of the Parks levy.

Councilmember Lee thanked everyone for their work and participation in the budget process. He asked staff to take a look at the chart presented by Betsi Hummer and Craig Spiezle during the public hearing. Mr. Lee said it is important to consider economic development. He said he would like additional discussion regarding the arts program.

Mr. Lee said he would like the City to consider a community responder program. He acknowledged the request to the City to rebalance the budget allocations to City and community wide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mayor Robinson asked staff to explore how arts funding and funding for the Vision Zero program could be increased.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked the public for their comments and input. Regarding the Vision Zero program, he said he would like to understand the impact of the reduced funding on meeting the City's goals. He expressed support for increased funding to the Wintergrass music festival. He said he shares his colleagues' interest in the allocations to reduce City emissions versus community wide emissions.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for Councilmember Robertson's comments about whether the City is being aggressive enough in its efforts to recruit police officers. He said some cities have offered hiring bonuses exceeding \$30,000. He requested information about how the City will ensure it can recruit and train officers.

Councilmember Barksdale said he supports the comments related to understanding the implications of adding arts funding. He expressed support for a community responder program in which mental health professionals respond to calls without police officers.

Councilmember Barksdale said he was struggling to understand the need for the proposed Police transit unit. He expressed an interest in understanding the impact of delaying the budget proposal, especially given that light rail is not expected to begin operating until 2024.

Councilmember Stokes said he was pleased to hear agreement among Councilmembers on a number of issues. He expressed an interest in a recommendation from staff for increasing arts funding. He would like staff to follow up to address questions that have been raised regarding Police Department funding.

Councilmember Zahn asked whether funding is available for enhanced public outreach regarding the CCAT program.

10. Study Session

- (a) Update on the Bellevue Safe Access for Everyone (B-SAFE) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Bellevue Safe Access for Everyone (B-SAFE) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application.

Genesee Adkins, Chief of External Affairs, provided opening remarks.

Katie Kuciemba Halse, Transportation Policy Advisor, recalled discussion in June regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and opportunities for the City. She said there are four years remaining of the five-year BIL program, which totals \$1.2 trillion. Of that, \$650 billion reauthorizes existing surface transportation programs for 2022-2026 and \$550 billion creates new funding for competitive and discretionary grant programs, including the SS4A grant. Ms. Halse said the BIL interdepartmental team meets every three weeks. A resource library has been created to track all grant and training opportunities.

Franz Loewenherz, Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager, said the SS4A grant provides \$5-6 billion over five years to advance efforts to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy. There are two types of grants: 1) action plan grants to develop, complete or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan, and 2) implementation grants to implement projects and strategies identified in an action plan to address a roadway safety program.

Mr. Loewenherz said the B-SAFE project area represents only 12 percent of Bellevue's geographic area. However, it represents 62 percent of citywide transit usage, 58 percent of citywide jobs, 48 percent of the citywide high injury network and 40 percent of pedestrian and bike fatal or serious injury collisions. He noted that 57 percent of the residents in the B-SAFE project area are people of color. B-SAFE programs include the King County Eastrail regional trail safety connections, Complete Streets installations and innovative practices and technologies to improve safety.

The grant application is a joint application with King County. Financial contributors include AWS, T-Mobile, Qualcomm, AMAG and Miovision. The grant is seeking \$40 million and the City is providing \$10 million in matching funds.

Ms. Adkins described working with the City's federal consultants to develop a plan for meeting with federal officials to help elevate the City's application for success. Mayor Robinson, Mr. Loewenherz and Ms. Adkins traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, congressional staff and representatives of the National League of Cities.

Ms. Adkins said more than 800 applications were submitted for this grant program. Announcements regarding the grant recipients are anticipated in January.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their proactive approach to pursuing the grant opportunity.

Councilmember Lee expressed appreciation for the BIL team and recalled that Mr. Loewenherz has been working on the Vision Zero program for a number of years.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Adkins concurred that it is important to be well-prepared for a multitude of grant opportunities. In addition to the competitive grants, there is also a great deal of formula funding funneled through states to local governments.

Ms. Halse said it is important to look not only at grants for which the City is eligible but also to assess the opportunities that are not an appropriate priority for the City.

Mayor Robinson said she has heard that TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loans are available to support affordable housing in transit-oriented development (TOD). She asked staff to follow up regarding the potential for the City to pursue that option.

(b) Intergovernmental Issues [*Written information only; no presentation.*]

(c) Affordable Housing Tools Update

[Item postponed.]

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

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

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw