



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member John Hines and Policy Assistant Claire Goodwin
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Council Contingency Fund Request – Litter Free 253 – March 29, 2022
DATE: March 22, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the use of \$2,500 from the Council Contingency Fund to fund litter pick-up tools (aka “litter grabbers”) for the annual volunteer-led Litter Free 253 event.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Council Member John Hines, Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka, and Council Member Joe Bushnell

BACKGROUND:

Litter Free 253 is a group of community volunteers who promote the idea that everyone plays a role in keeping litter out of our streets, parks, and neighborhoods through organized litter pick-up events, including an annual citywide litter-pick up. This year, the South End, Eastside, and West End Neighborhood Councils have teamed up to organize Tacoma's 3rd annual Litter Free 253 event on Saturday, April 16 from 9am to 11am.

Last year, approximately 600 volunteers participated – collecting about 10 tons of litter. Teams or individuals sign up through Litter Free 253 and are provided city-sponsored gloves, garbage bags, and safety vests through the City's Adopt-a-Spot program. Community organizers would like to purchase litter grabbers to distribute to participants this year to use during the event and also for participants to keep for future litter pick-ups. Not having a litter grabber is a barrier to picking-up litter. Since volunteers rarely have these tools, providing them will encourage more people to join the event, assist residents with mobility issues who may have trouble bending down, and gets kids excited about novel tools. This financial contribution will fund approximately 350 litter grabbers. As of March 15, organizers have fundraised \$4,150 from the Community Council of Tacoma, Neighborhood Councils, local businesses, and online contributions to fund additional grabbers and litter pick-up kits for each Neighborhood Council and to donate to the Tool Library. Litter pick-up kits consist of one 5 gallon bucket, a minimum of 10 litter grabbers, gloves, bags, safety vests, and a pass to dispose of the refuse at no charge at the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Litter Free 253 organizers, which include leaders from the South End, Eastside, and West End Neighborhood Councils, requested this support from Council. The South End and Eastside neighborhoods represent areas of the city with historically underrepresented populations and are identified as “low opportunity” areas based on the City's Equity Index.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

This proposal will provide important tools for litter pick-up to community volunteers in every neighborhood where individuals or businesses have signed up to participate in Litter Free 253. These tools will be given to volunteers for use during the event and for future use.

Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

This proposal will increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community by sponsoring the distribution of a tool that makes litter pick-up easier, safer, more accessible, and more fun resulting in litter free spaces made possible by community volunteers. This proposal will also increase the positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life by sponsoring tools that efficiently pick-up litter, leading to clean spaces which signals the community is invested in keeping unsightly garbage out of public spaces.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. No action	Funding available for other identified priorities from the Council Contingency Fund	Residents either going without grabbers during the Litter Free 253 event and picking up less litter with more labor, or providing their own which requires advance planning and additional expenses out of pocket
2. Fund additional litter grabbers	Additional funding would increase the number of grabbers distributed in the community	Larger financial ask to the Council Contingency Fund

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Success will be defined as approximately 350 litter grabbers distributed to community volunteers for the 2022 Litter Free 253 event. Event organizers will report back on the number of volunteers who participated and the amount of litter collected.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Support a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund litter pick-up tools (aka "litter grabbers") for the annual volunteer-led Litter Free 253 event.



FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposal has a fiscal impact of \$2,500 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1030 - Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$2,500
TOTAL			\$2,500

What Funding is being used to support the expense?
Council Contingency Fund

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES
The Council Contingency Fund is provided an established amount of funding each biennium available for Council-sponsored initiatives.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES
The impacts of not funding this proposal are that volunteers would not be provided a litter grabber and would either go without a grabber during the event or would need to acquire their own.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No
The proposal funds litter pick-up tools for community volunteers and does not impact the City's personnel counts.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Council Contingency Fund balance sheet

2022 Council Contingency Commitments

2022-2023	\$ 250,000.00
(Remaining balance from 2021 that will be carried over)	\$ 88,592.09
Council Requested - Seed Internships	\$ 31,000.00
Resolution 40919	
<i>A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$31,000 to fund the full or partial costs of five or more Tacoma-based small businesses or non-profits of hosting a Seed Internship.</i>	
Council Requested - Daffodil Parade	\$ 20,000.00
Resolution 40925	
A resolution authorizing the one-time use of \$20,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to be applied to the cost of in-kind services provided by the City of Tacoma such as traffic control devices and traffic control services.	
Council Requested - Tacoma Reads	\$ 10,000.00
To Council March 22, 2022	
A request for City Council concurrence for a \$10,000 City Council Contingency Fund request to support the 2022 Tacoma Reads Together events.	
Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir	\$25,000
To Council March 29, 2022	
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$25,000 to assist the Tacoma Refugee Choir in funding the music video portion of their 2022 spring projects.	
Council Requested - Litter Free 253	\$ 2,500.00
To Council March 29, 2022	
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund litter pick-up tools "litter grabbers," for the annual volunteer-led Litter Free 253 event.	
Starting Balance	\$ 338,592.09
Total Amount Allocated	\$ 88,500.00
Current Balance	\$ 250,092.09