



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka and Council Assistant Lynda Foster
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Kurtis Kingsolver, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Supporting Ukrainian Refugees – December 13, 2022**
DATE: December 7, 2022

I ask for your support for a Contingency Fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support the Tacoma Community House in assisting Ukrainian refugees with direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Council Contingency Fund Request:

Over the past 12 months, Tacoma Community (TCH) has experienced a dramatic influx of Ukrainian refugees, due to the unprovoked invasion of their country. More than 230 individuals, not counting 400+ family members, are enrolled in English classes, seeking employment and immigration services. Many have found shelter through the generosity of the Slavic communities in Pierce County, and monetary assistance through TCH's Ukrainian Fund.

Typically, resettlement relief flows from the Federal and State Government through to the county. However, access to those funds has not been secured due to the path refugees are taking to enter Pierce County. Due to TCH's historic connections to Ukrainian immigrant and refugee communities, they have taken a lead on welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Tacoma and Pierce County while Pierce County coordinates a long-term strategy to access funding and address the needs of this refugee community.

TCH has also developed and implemented a Language Access Plan, hired four additional ELA teachers and has filled all of its classes. In addition, TCH has hired a Ukrainian Resource Navigator, who assist clients by reducing communication barriers, providing integration resources and outreach to the existing Ukrainian community in Pierce County, an Immigration Case Worker to support immigration and work eligibility status and a Jobs Developer, also Ukrainian, to work across all TCH departments in assisting clients find meaningful work and connecting with area employers to host job fairs and employment workshop. Additional resources will support specific client assistance All three case workers are originally from Ukraine and are multi-lingual.

To further assist Ukrainian refugees, this contingency fund request is to support TCH to provide and support direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 20,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: December 20, 2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

Ukraine is a diverse country with many ethnic backgrounds and there are thousands of Ukrainian born immigrants living in Tacoma and its suburbs. As of Nov 16, 2022, the Washington State Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance reports¹ 1,284 Form-134 Applications Submitted by Uniting for Ukraine supporters in Pierce County. Ukrainian born Tacomans have asked the City of Tacoma to provide assistance in meeting the basic needs of Ukrainian refugees displaced by the unprovoked invasion of their country. Constituents have shared stories of Tacomans welcoming entire Ukrainian families into their homes, stretching their personal resources to care for refugees. There is a clear need to support these efforts and demonstrate how the City of Tacoma is a welcoming City.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Refugees fleeing war face many hardships while resettling in a new community. These individuals may arrive in the United States with little no resources and be dependent on government assistance. The Washington State Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance reports² a significant increase in Ukrainian clients on select Cash, Food, and Apple Health Medical Programs throughout the year. The burden of caring for these refugees is shared with the local families who host the refugees. Ukrainians participating in Uniting for Ukraine must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay in the United States. This puts existing immigrant populations in a difficult situation as they stretch their resources further to care for a new wave of refugees.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

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

This funding will help fund access to basic necessities for Ukrainian refugees and their host families.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives actions for council or staff to take. Please use table below.

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Provide no financial support	Other governments are pursuing financial assistance options, the City of Tacoma could defer to those programs and preserve resources for other priorities.	We would not be acting as a welcoming City and providing support to our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

¹

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ESA/oria/documents/DSHS%20ORIA%20Ukrainian%20Welcoming%20Task%20Force%202022-04-27.pdf>

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<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ESA/oria/documents/DSHS%20ORIA%20Ukrainian%20Welcoming%20Task%20Force%202022-04-27.pdf>

2. Provide more financial support for this program	This would have a larger impact on supporting our immigrant and refugee community.	This funding could be used for other priorities, we could be duplicating resources with other government programs.
3. Fund different programs	Other needs have been identified by the community, such as translation services, that would offer different benefits to Ukrainian refugees.	It will take more time to determine how to develop these programs and resources, waiting to complete that work would delay support for refugees.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

The Tacoma Community House should provide a written report to the City of how resources were used to support Ukrainian immigrants and refugees.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend the City Council demonstrate their commitment to being a welcoming City by providing \$20,000 to provide and support direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:


\$20,000 in contingency funds.


If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or Lynda.Foster@CityofTacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member Ushka

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS# 8

2.  POS# 2

Mayor's initials 

(Mayor's initials for awareness only to ensure alignment and coordination of emergent policies.)

2022 Council Contingency Commitments

2022-2023	\$ 250,000.00
(Remaining balance from 2021 that will be carried over)	\$ 85,521.09
Council Requested - Seed Internships	\$ 31,000.00

Resolution 40919

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.

Council Requested - Daffodil Parade	\$ 20,000.00
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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
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Resolution 40934

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	\$ 25,000.00
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Resolution 40941

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
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Resolution 40940

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.

Council Requested - South Sound Together	\$ 12,000.00
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Resolution 40948

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,000 to fund grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound.

Council Requested - Multicultural Childcare Center	\$ 5,000.00
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Resolution 40986

A Council Contingency Fund request to purchase infant formula to support the Multicultural Childcare Center formula drive.

Council Requested - LGBTQIA+ Pride Painting	\$ 2,500.00
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Resolution 40994

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund three LGBTQ+ Pride painting projects including temporary rainbow crosswalks, permanent rainbow bricks, and temporary rainbow barriers.

Council Requested - Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference in Tacoma	\$ 6,500.00
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Resolution 41000

A \$6,500 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference in Tacoma.

Council Requested - Safe Youth Awareness Campaign	\$ 35,000.00
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Resolution 40995

A resolution authorizing the one time use of Council Contingency Funds, in the amount of \$35,000, to fund the partial costs to develop and implement an eight-week Safe Youth Awareness Campaign beginning in July 2022.

Council Request - Korean Association Tacoma Building Renovation	\$ 10,000.00
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Resolution 41004

Council Contingency Fund expenditure to support the Korean Association of Tacoma building renovation.

Council Requested - Peace Bus "Every Kid Eats" Summer Program	\$ 2,500.00
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Resolution 41015

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to support the Peace Bus and the "Every Kid Eats" summer program

Council Requested - Hilltop Street Fair	\$ 10,000.00
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Resolution 41018

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to fund entertainment and arts programming at the 2022 Hilltop Street Fair sponsored by the Hilltop Business Association.

Council Requested - UWT Celebrando Comunidad 2022 -Latinx Celebration and Awards	\$ 5,000.00
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Resolution 41028

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the 2nd Annual University of Washington Tacoma Celebrando Comunidad: Latinx Celebration and Awards.

Council Requested - Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards	\$ 5,000.00
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Resolution 41042

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards.

Council Requested - Youth Commission of Tacoma Travel to NLC	\$ 5,000.00
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Resolution 41046

Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma travel to the National League of Cities Conference

Council Requested - 2022 Santa Parade	\$ 5,000.00
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Resolution 41074

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the 2022 Santa Parade

Council Requested - Dia de Los Muertos Event	\$ 9,019.84
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To Council December 13, 2022

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$9,019.84 to fund barricades that supported the community-organized and Tacoma Creates-sponsored Dia de los Muertos procession on October 29, 2022 and incurred this unexpected expense.

Council Requested - Faith Community Audit	\$ 10,000.00
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To Study Session December 13, 2022

A Resolution allocating \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support a faith community audit

Council Requested - Homelessness Solutions Convening with UWT	\$ 20,000.00
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To Study Session December 13, 2022

A \$20,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to support the convening of community conversations at the University of Washington Tacoma to focus on solutions to homelessness in 2023.

Council Requested - Supporting Ukrainian Refugees	\$ 20,000.00
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To Study Session December 13, 2022

A contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support the Tacoma Community House in assisting Ukrainian refugees with direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs.

Council Requested - LeRoy Clock	\$ 35,000.00
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To Study Session December 13, 2022

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$35,000 for the restoration of the LeRoy Street Clock on Broadway Street in downtown Tacoma.

Council Request - Links to Opportunity Project Office	\$ 10,000.00
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To Study Session December 13, 2022

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to fund existing Public Works Department and Community and Economic Development Department staff to provide education and outreach for the Links to Opportunity project during the construction phase to communicate broadly, consistently, and in real time so that community can actively participate in meaningful dialog to address concerns and issues during construction.

Starting Balance	\$ 338,521.09
Total Amount Allocated	\$ 296,019.84
Current Balance	\$ 42,521.25