



RESOLUTION NO. 40502

BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BLOCKER, HUNTER, AND MELLO

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A RESOLUTION relating to youth involvement; creating the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma to advise on policies, codes, plans, and practices through a youth lens; providing a platform for youth engagement in policy making decisions and local government; appointing the founding leadership team; and directing the City Manager to provide staff support.

WHEREAS youth engagement in municipal government allows young community members the opportunity to increase and strengthen their capacity for knowledge, leadership and action skills; understand and become more aware of the issues and root causes, systems, strategies for change, commitment and a sense of responsibility; opportunity to act on passion, use skills, and generate change through relevant sustained action, and

WHEREAS municipal leaders across the country are discovering that the youth of the city are their greatest assets; increasingly youth are working with elected officials to address issues of local government, and in recent years, the uptick of youth engagement has shown that more young people are discovering that their voice matters and being civically engaged can support positive change in their community, and

WHEREAS City leadership is finding that when they provide meaningful opportunities for youth engagement, more youth participate and encourage their peers to do so as well, and

WHEREAS cities already using the approach of engaging the next civic generation have realized the following benefits: (1) increased support for city initiatives such as student government day; (2) improved policies and programs for



youth; and (3) improved indicators of well-being by civic participation and
1 engagement, and

2 WHEREAS in October of 2018, staff convened youth-serving stakeholders
3 to get feedback and guidance on how to achieve this vision through a Youth
4 Commission, and following the recruitment to fill 16 seats, a recommendation was
5 made to open the process to all 126 applicants, and with that recommendation all
6 126 students were invited to join the Mayor's Youth Engagement Task Force,
7 which kicked off in 2019, and
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9 WHEREAS for the first six months of 2019, students from across Tacoma
10 came together once a month for a full day of engagement to discuss changes they
11 wanted to see in Tacoma, and how they wanted to achieve those changes; since
12 starting their work, students have already started creating change in Tacoma by
13 helping to place a youth member on the Commission on Disabilities and working
14 directly with Metro Parks for community outreach around Gas Station Park, and
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16 WHEREAS the students recommended the following changes to formalize
17 the task force: (1) rename the task force to the Mayor's Youth Commission of
18 Tacoma; (2) create four policy area subcommittees; (3) elect a leadership team
19 that would be responsible for communicating with the City; (4) formalize the
20 Commission and create opportunities for students to engage in policy; and (5) use
21 the Youth Commission to support getting more youth engagement in leadership
22 positions, Now, Therefore,
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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

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Section 1. That the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma is hereby created to advise on policies, codes, plans, and practices through a youth lens; provide a platform for youth engagement in policy making decisions and local government; appointing the founding leadership team; and directing the City Manager to provide staff support.

Section 2. That the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma will be composed of any number of youth, defined as being of middle or high school age, who live, attend school, or are engaged in the city; these youth will annually elect a diverse ten member leadership team, who will represent them and be confirmed by the City Council. The committee and operations of the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma and operating rules will be set by their bylaws.

Section 3. That the founding members elected by their peers on June 15, 2019 to serve a one-year term to expire on June 30, 2020, are listed on the attached Exhibit “A.”

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

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MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION OF TACOMA

- Rosemary Sissel, Commission Chair.
- Yasmin Aref, Commission Vice Chair.
- Huyen-Tram Nguyen, Outreach and Budget Chair.
- Stella Keating, Outreach and Budget Vice Chair.
- Ethan Quinones, Justice and Safety Chair.
- Rowan Ali, Justice and Safety Vice Chair.
- Ian Fredrickson, Education, Arts, and Culture Chair.
- Emma Robinson, Education, Arts, and Culture Vice Chair.
- Maizy Green, Social and Environmental Health Chair.
- Taylor Jackson, Social and Environmental Health Vice Chair.