



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Capell, Hearing Examiner, Office of the Hearing Examiner *JAC*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Request No. 19-1204 – A resolution updating and amending the Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure – November 19, 2019
DATE: October 28, 2019

SUMMARY:

Request for a resolution approving updates to the Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure primarily to allow for electronic filing of documents once an appeal has been received.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

Given the recent trend in Washington courts to allow, and even require electronic filing of documents, the office of the Hearing Examiner is requesting a change to its rules that would allow (but not yet require) electronic filing of documents, together with a few other minor corrections. Allowing electronic filing is intended to reduce paper usage and possibly increase access to appeals for people without printing resources.

ISSUE:

Whether the City Council should approve the rule updates as proposed. Approving the rule changes will reduce paper expenses for the Hearing Examiner's Office, for City hearing participants, and for citizen appellants.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could reject the proposed rule changes.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Office of the Hearing Examiner recommends approving the proposed rule changes in order to reduce costs for all involved, providing easier access for participation in the hearing process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NA