



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager, Finance Department
Andy Cherullo, Finance Director
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – Tacoma Municipal Code 8.30A “Chronic Nuisance Code” Amendments – February 18, 2020
DATE: January 30, 2020

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

An ordinance relating to the Chronic Public Nuisance Code, amending Title 8.30A of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC), to remove “Domestic Violence” as a qualifying nuisance activity from the list set forth in TMC 8.30A.020, to protect victims from being deemed “nuisance” tenants for reporting criminal activity.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Blocker and Council Member Ushka

BACKGROUND:

The Departments Recommendation is Based On: Statistics and information provided by the Human Rights Commission, Policy and Advocacy (P&A) Committee members regarding “domestic violence” as a qualifying nuisance activity and how nuisance ordinances have been found to discourage reporting domestic violence to law enforcement and seeking emergency medical and police assistance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The P&A Committee provided information regarding federal, state and county law that all, in varying ways, protect victims of domestic violence from being deemed “nuisance” tenants and/or discriminated against in housing based on, or as a result of, their status as victims of domestic violence.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

In an effort to support domestic violence victims’ rights, the proposed amendment to TMC 8.30A will remove “Domestic Violence, TMC 8.105” from the list of nuisance activities as defined in section 8.30A.020.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

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

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

Removing “domestic violence” as a qualifying nuisance activity will protect victims of domestic violence from being deemed “nuisance” tenants and not punish victims for reporting criminal activity to law enforcement and risking eviction by their landlord.



ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Don't remove "domestic violence" as a qualifying nuisance activity		May disproportionately impact poor women and punish domestic violence victims for reporting criminal activity to law enforcement
2.		
3.		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

None Needed.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Removing "domestic violence" from the list of qualifying nuisance activities in Chapter 8.30A to protect domestic violence victims from being deemed "nuisance" tenants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum