



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Ryan Mello  
**COPIES TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager; Mark Lauzier, Assistant City Manager; Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager; Elizabeth Pauli, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File  
**SUBJECT:** Funding for the Wood Stove Program  
**DATE:** August 13, 2015

---

**ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

**I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the August 18, 2015 of the Study Session:**

Requesting the City Manager to release \$50,000 in 2015 and \$50,000 in 2016, for a total of \$100,000, from the Council Contingency Fund to the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) for the operation of the Wood Stove Program. Also requesting the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the TPCHD to outline the specific uses of the funds and deliverables. Funding beyond 2016 will be reassessed at a later date and will depend on available budget. Due to the fact that the upcoming heating season is fast approaching, the 2015 money is requested to be released as soon as possible.

The funds would cover staffing costs associated with verifying income qualification for financial assistance, which is awarded to residents for the purchase of cleaner burning stoves, and outreach and education. Funds would also be available to focus on particular neighborhoods such as the Lincoln and South End neighborhoods of Tacoma. The City of Tacoma also committed to promote and advertise the Wood Stove Program through the Media and Communications Office.

The Wood Stove Program, which is operated by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), in partnership with TPCHD, was developed to help residents within a targeted area of Pierce County, known as the Smoke Reduction Zone, replace their uncertified wood-burning devices with cleaner heating options through education, outreach and financial assistance. Emphasis is placed on connecting low-income households and other underserved populations with more environmentally friendly stoves or other heating devices such as gas appliances or heat pumps. Currently, the program is on hold, having exhausted all previously awarded grant funding. PSCAA is expecting additional funding from the Department of Ecology to finance the next iteration of woodstove change outs, excluding Health Department staff costs, beginning in late September 2015.

The partnership began in 2007 and was, until this year, funded through a \$100,000 contract with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and an approximately \$100,000 match by the TPCHD. The Wood Stove Program was formed in response to the 2009 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finding that the Tacoma-Pierce County area was out of compliance with the Clean Air Act due to the severity of fine particle pollution—caused by older wood-burning devices.

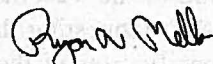
While our Smoke Reduction Zone is officially back in compliance, a 10 year monitoring plan was put in place; this requires ongoing effort and continual removal of polluting devices. The Wood Stove Program is a critical component in adhering to the State's Implementation Plan.

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

In May 2015, the PSCAA indicated that they would reduce funding in Pierce County for the Smoke Reduction Zone which includes entirely defunding the partnership with TPCHD for the Wood Stove Program. The PSCAA, a regional organization comprised of Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton and King, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties, has spent almost \$10 million to help our local Smoke Reduction Zone comply with federal standards related to air quality. While they will contribute \$2.3 million in 2016 to support the local smoke reduction work, PSCAA is now shifting its focus and resources to address other priorities. However, given importance of the Wood Stove Program, and the necessity of continuing such programs in order to remain in compliance with the EPA, the TPCHD is seeking support from the City of Tacoma.

The Wood Stove Program's partnership between PSCAA and TPCHD costs approximately \$200,000 per year, which pays for staff and other administrative costs. If this CCR were to pass, the funding amounts and sources would be approximately as follows: In 2015, \$50,000 from the City of Tacoma; \$50,000 from the last portion of the PSCAA contract, and \$100,000 from the TPCHD. In 2016, it would be expected that \$50,000 would come from the City of Tacoma, \$50,000 from Pierce County, and \$100,000 from the TPCHD.

**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Council Member Ryan N. Mello, Position 8**

**SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

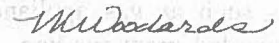
*(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_



**POS # 4**

2. \_\_\_\_\_



**POS# 6**