



RESOLUTION NO. 40610

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS, DEPUTY MAYOR BLOCKER, AND
2 COUNCIL MEMBER WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION relating to Equity, Justice, and Fairness; affirming the City's
4 commitment to equity, justice, and fairness in its response to the novel
5 Coronavirus; affirming the City will utilize its resources, platforms, and
6 authority to identify and address the ways that COVID-19 is exacerbating
7 existing inequities in the community; reaffirming the City's commitment to
8 anti-racism in communications related to COVID-19; and committing to lift
9 up the medical and social needs of the most marginalized members of the
10 community and demonstrate how centering their needs ensure the safety of
11 the health of all.

12 WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 has significantly impacted the
13 health, social, and economic fabric of the City of Tacoma, and

14 WHEREAS, throughout this pandemic our community has relied heavily on
15 the labor of frontline essential workers in fields such as agriculture, cleaning,
16 delivery and warehousing, grocery, healthcare, and public transit, and people of
17 color are over-represented in these sectors and are at greater risk of exposure to
18 the COVID-19 virus, and

19 WHEREAS, nationally, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that less than
20 one in five black workers and roughly only one in six Hispanic workers are able to
21 work from home, and

22 WHEREAS, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific
23 Islanders represent a disproportionate share of the COVID-19 cases across
24 Pierce County, with them being impacted at rates two to five times greater than
25 white residents, and
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1 WHEREAS, systemic racism and long-standing inequalities have resulted in
2 communities of color being more likely to have risk factors that negatively affect
3 their health, including the outcomes of cases of COVID-19, and
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5 WHEREAS, these same systemic factors have resulted in communities of
6 color being less likely to have medical insurance and access to adequate medical
7 care during the time of this global pandemic, and
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9 WHEREAS, COVID-19 impacts both the physical as well as the financial
10 health of our residents, and communities of color – Black and Hispanic families in
11 particular – are over-represented in the percentage of asset limited, income
12 constrained, employed (ALICE) households; and
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14 WHEREAS, National labor statistics show that people of color are more
15 likely to be laid off, and those households that include immigrants may be ineligible
16 for and/or reluctant to access government aid programs when facing financial
17 hardship; and
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19 WHEREAS, for these reasons, people of color and households that include
20 immigrants and refugees are more likely to experience food insecurity and housing
21 instability during this period of economic turmoil, and
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23 WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma recognizes that lifting up the medical and
24 social needs of the most marginalized, and being responsive to these needs
25 improves safety and health outcomes for us all, and
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27 WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma is an active member of the National League
28 of Cities (NLC) and Mayor Woodards serves as a co-chair of NLC's Race, Equity,
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And Leadership Council (REAL) initiative, which encourages local leaders to introduce and adopt an equity resolution that publicly affirms the municipalities' commitment to equity, justice and fairness in its response to the novel Coronavirus, and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment Framework in 2014 and is committed to equity in our service delivery, decision making and community engagement, including our COVID-19 response, and

WHEREAS the statement on Anti-Discrimination and COVID-19 approved by the City Council on April 3rd condemned discrimination of any kind against members of our community; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. The City of Tacoma hereby affirms its commitment to equity, justice, and fairness in its response to COVID-19.

Section 2. The City of Tacoma hereby affirms its commitment to utilize our resources, platforms, and authority to identify and work to address the ways that COVID-19 is exacerbating existing inequities in our communities.

Section 3. The City of Tacoma affirms its commitment to not using fear to scapegoat communities, to not engage in language that has the impact of "othering" marginalized community members, and to promote messages of anti-discrimination in communications related to COVID-19.



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Section 4. That the City Council finds that this Resolution is necessary,
routine, and consistent with Governor Inslee's emergency proclamation issued
March 24, 2020, and recently extended, suspending portions of the Open Public
Meetings Act.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney