



RESOLUTION NO. 41804

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION conferring the honorary street name “Willie Adams Way” for
3 East Alexander Avenue west of Alexander Avenue East.

4 WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 41009, which adopted
5 the amendments to the City’s Policy on Place Names and Name Changes,
6 honorary street naming requests are reviewed and vetted at several levels:
7 Mayor’s Office, individual departments/divisions, and the Council’s Infrastructure,
8 Planning, and Sustainability (“IPS”) Committee, and
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10 WHEREAS the final review and decision to approve naming requests lies
11 with the City Council, and

12 WHEREAS City staff reviewed the naming proposal in accordance with the
13 City’s adopted policy and presented the findings to the IPS Committee, and
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15 WHEREAS, on October 22, 2025, the IPS Committee unanimously approved
16 forwarding the proposal to the full City Council for consideration, and

17 WHEREAS, if the proposed resolution is adopted, one new additional
18 honorary street name sign—displaying “Willie Adams Way” will be added atop the
19 existing stop sign/post at the southwest corner of East Alexander Avenue and
20 Alexander Avenue East, and
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22 WHEREAS the existing and official street name of East Alexander Avenue
23 will remain in effect, and the honorary naming/sign will only be informational, and

24 WHEREAS Willie Adams (“Mr. Adams”) was a community leader who
25 became the International Longshore and Warehouse Union’s (“ILWU”) first Black
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president, and his long-spanning career has been characterized by advocacy for
and dedication to a labor community where all workers are welcome – regardless of
their background, and

WHEREAS Mr. Adams was the seventh President of the ILWU; and between
1991 and 1993, and again from 2001 to 2005, he and fellow ILWU member Mike
Chambers produced an annual event titled “Celebration of Black History and
Labor”, which honored the accomplishments of Black workers in the City and also
those who battled discrimination and fought for equal opportunities for all workers,
and

WHEREAS bestowing and installing the honorary street naming would
provide an opportunity for those new to and familiar with the area, including visiting
the ILWU Union Hall, to inquire about the naming and learn more about Mr. Adams
and what he and his organization have done for the Port and City; Now, Therefore,



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

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That the Council of the City of Tacoma hereby confers the honorary street name of "Willie Adams Way" for East Alexander Avenue west of Alexander Avenue East.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney