



RESOLUTION NO. 40707

1 A RESOLUTION relating to income disparity and inequality; authorizing the
2 execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Mayors for a
3 Guaranteed Income and United Way of Pierce County granting \$100,000 in
4 starter funds to the United Way of Pierce County, to assist with launching a
5 guaranteed income demonstration or launch a task force to explore the
6 viability of and build support for guaranteed income in the City, effective
7 December 8, 2020, through December 31, 2021.

8 WHEREAS the United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world
9 but prosperity and well-being are not broadly shared, with nearly 40 percent of
10 Americans unable to afford a single \$400 emergency, and

11 WHEREAS rising income inequality is compounded by a growing racial
12 wealth gap, with the median White worker making 28 percent more than the typical
13 Black worker, and 35 percent more than the median Latinx worker in the last
14 quarter of 2019, and

15 WHEREAS prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the median wealth of White
16 families was more than \$100,000, while the median wealth of Black families was
17 approximately \$10,000, and

18 WHEREAS women, particularly women of color, are most likely to live in
19 poverty, are overrepresented in low-paying occupations, are far more likely to lack
20 access to sick leave and healthcare benefits, and when these disparities are
21 combined, Black women are paid 66 cents for every dollar that is paid to White
22 men, and Latinas make even less at 58 cents for every dollar White men make,
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1 WHEREAS recent research has also indicated significant disparities when
2 looking at the earnings for gay and transgender workers, most specifically gay men
3 and transgender women, and

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5 WHEREAS when looking at data across 12 studies, the Williams Institute
6 found that gay and bisexual men earn 10-32 percent less than heterosexual men
7 that were similarly qualified, with one study finding that the earnings of female
8 transgender workers fell by nearly one-third following their gender transitions, and

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10 WHEREAS in June of 2020, Mayor Woodards shared with Deputy Mayor
11 and the City Council that she had signed on to be a founding member of Mayors
12 for a Guaranteed Income (“MGI”), and noted at that time that her participation was
13 motivated by the potential to be connected to non-governmental funding
14 opportunities for local pilot projects, and

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16 WHEREAS since the summer of 2020, a small group of community leaders
17 have been exploring the potential for a City guaranteed income pilot, as well as
18 considering what elements should be included in its design, and

19 WHEREAS partners in this endeavor have included Mayor Woodards,
20 Council Member Walker, United Way, Sound Outreach (administrator for Center
21 for Strong Families), Tacoma Urban League, Greater Tacoma Community
22 Foundation, and more recently, Tacoma Housing Authority, and

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24 WHEREAS because Mayor Woodards is a founding member of MGI, they
25 have offered \$100,000 that would help to design and lay the groundwork for a
26 guaranteed income pilot in the City, and the lessons learned from a local pilot



1 would be aggregated with data from pilots across the nation that could be used to
2 inform federal policy work, and

3 WHEREAS among the community leaders who have been meeting to
4 discuss a potential pilot in the City, there is a shared understanding of the impacts
5 of Covid-19 on the City's budget, they have discussed a shared goal to identify
6 private or philanthropic dollars if a pilot were established in the City, and some
7 funders have already reached out with an interest, and

9 WHEREAS we live in a time of pandemics and climate disruptions, and MGI
10 holds the position that everyone deserves an income floor through a guaranteed
11 income which empowers recipients to address their most urgent needs and
12 provides a cushion for unpredictable expenses, external shocks, and volatility, and

14 WHEREAS this follows the foundational anti-poverty work pursued by
15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with his speeches using the term "guaranteed income,"
16 which is foundational to MGI's work, and

18 WHEREAS as defined by the national MGI initiative, guaranteed income is:

- 19 1. A monthly, cash payment given directly to individuals;
- 20 2. The payment is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work
21 requirements;
- 22 3. The additional income is meant to supplement, rather than replace,
23 the existing social safety net; and
- 24 4. It can be a tool for racial and gender equality, and

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1 WHEREAS early data from the Stockton Economic Empowerment
2 Demonstration, where they are providing \$500 per month for 24 months, showed
3 that 40 percent of the funding was spent on food, a percentage which has
4 increased during Covid-19, and

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6 WHEREAS initial qualitative data reflect improved mental health, the ability
7 to seek medical or dental care, and the ability to better show up for and support
8 their children, and

9 WHEREAS these findings align with research showing that poverty or low
10 income status are directly linked to health – “Poverty and low-income status are
11 associated with a variety of adverse health outcomes, including shorter life
12 expectancy, higher rates of infant mortality, and higher death rates for the 14
13 leading causes of death,”¹ and

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15 WHEREAS to support potential future use of guaranteed income to address
16 and eliminate poverty at the federal level, the memorandum of understanding
17 (“MOU”) also outlines the following responsibilities for Mayor Woodards and the
18 City:
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- 20 1. Conduct regular check-ins with the MGI team to ensure that work is
21 coordinated with the demonstrations, task forces, and other MGI-
22 related work in other cities;
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24 2. Participate in MGI research consortium, either by opting into the
25 multi-city evaluation, or ensuring that research questions and design
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¹ <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/poverty-health.html#poverty>



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are aligned with MGI’s learning agenda (or if hiring an independent evaluator, parties will enter into a data-sharing agreement with MGI and participate in quarterly research and evaluation coordination calls);

3. Participate in MGI narrative shift efforts to highlight the lived experiences of economic insecurity (specifically, the Mayor of Tacoma will accept national and local media opportunities related to the work plan, and, recognizing the need for individuals to own and tell their stories, demonstrations will work to incorporate a storytelling cohort and task forces will engage with community members), and
4. Assist in national fundraising efforts, and identify opportunities for unique partnerships, and

WHEREAS the MOU also identifies that the City will work in partnership with United Way and other community partners to develop a work plan for task force and/or demonstration design and implementation, and share with MGI for feedback, and once finalized, the work plan would be incorporated into and be bound by the terms and conditions of the MOU, and

WHEREAS the MOU does not bind the City to a guaranteed income pilot;
Now, Therefore,



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

Section 1. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to execute a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and United Way that would grant \$100,000 in starter funds to the United Way of Pierce County to assist with launching a guaranteed income demonstration or launch a task force to explore the viability of and build support for guaranteed income in the City, for a term running from December 8, 2020, to December 31, 2021.

Section 2. That the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to take and execute any additional measures or documents that may be necessary to complete this transaction which are consistent with the approved form of documents referenced by this Resolution, and the intent of this Resolution.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney