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PRESENTER: Harvest Pierce County and the Just and Healthy Food Community of Interest
SUBJECT: Urban Agriculture Update
DATE: December 12, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Harvest Pierce County and the Just and Healthy Food Community of Interest will be giving a follow up presentation on December 12, 2018 on their work this year as it relates to urban agriculture. They gave a presentation to Study Session in May and a request was made to come back once they had more detailed information to share on urban agriculture opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

While the City has forty-seven community gardens, they do not produce food for sale. The intent of Urban Agriculture is to provide locally grown food for sale in the community. The 2016 Environmental Action Plan included goals and actions related to increasing equitable access to local and healthy foods. Specifically, the two actions are to:

- Create and fund a reporting system and feedback forum for the city to hear from those suffering from food insecurity
- Support agriculture and identify legal hurdles so residents can sell produce grown in the city.

The Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability (OEPS) is supporting and funding a project to help implement these actions. OEPS has a \$20,000 contract with Harvest Pierce County to create a task force, comprised of Harvest Pierce County, Hilltop Urban Gardens, and the Just and Healthy Food System Community of Interest to develop a multi-phased assessment of the potential for expanded urban agriculture in the City of Tacoma.

Phase 1: Assess community interest, opportunities, and challenges to expanding and supporting urban agriculture with the potential to sell produce grown either wholesale or direct-to-consumer;

Phase 2 – Pilot at least one project on City of Tacoma property

Phase 3 – Evaluate pilot project and propose program and policy recommendations to COT.

ISSUE:

Currently there is no urban agriculture occurring within the City. Tacoma codes are silent on growing and selling produce in the City. Additionally, no analysis had been done on availability of appropriate public lands for urban agriculture.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing.