

C4: Rumbaugh Amendment 1 – Sale or Disposition of Any Waterfront Property

Council Proposed Amendment

Amendment Summary

Article IX, Section 9.1

Brief Summary of Amendment

- Permits the City to sell or dispose of waterfront property under specific circumstances.
- Limits the sale or disposition to only public agencies and with guaranteed perpetual public ownership.
- Property use must include public access, and can be used for recreation, education, or habitat preservation.

Amendment:

Disposition of City Property 17 Section 9.1 – Except as otherwise provided in this charter or in state law, the sale, lease or conveyance of real or personal property belonging to the City shall be upon authorization of the Council; provided that machinery or equipment may be leased from day to day on written agreement therefore approved by the City Manager or Director of Utilities, as the case may be, and filed with the Director of Finance; provided further that, the lease of real or personal property for a term of less than a one year period without renewal options shall not require authorization of the Council. Any lease of real or personal property for a period longer than five (5) years shall contain provisions for adjustment of rentals at intervals not to exceed five (5) years. The City may authorize the sale or disposition of any waterfront property belonging to the City and, subject to the provisions of state law, solely to public agencies for the guaranteed purpose of perpetual public ownership and public access, to be used for recreation, education, or habitat preservation. The City shall not lease waterfront property for a period longer than seventy-five years at any one time. All conveyances, contracts for sale of land owned by the City, and leases of such land for a term of longer than one year, including any renewal options, shall be executed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk.

Rationale for Amendment:

Section 9.1 was established years ago to prevent the railroad from blocking public access to the waterfront. The City Council and the Board of Park Commissioners have a shared goal of transferring ownership of City-owned park properties to Metro Parks. The City pays Metro Parks to manage some City-owned properties, including parcels along the Ruston Way waterfront. Alignment of ownership under Metro Parks would establish a consistent level of service across all parks and enable the City to focus its resources on other municipal priorities. This amendment recognizes the intent for perpetual public ownership and access, and identifies potential uses other public agencies might desire to lead on that could serve the Tacoma community.