



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution consolidating and clarifying motions directing certain Charter amendments through various policy development processes for further study and evaluation – Requested for July 30, 2024
DATE: July 9, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution consolidating and clarifying motions directing certain Charter Review Committee recommendations and proposed Council Member Charter amendments through various policy development processes for further study and evaluation.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

Over the last couple months during discussions on the Charter Review Committee recommendations there have been several items that the Council has indicated an interest in addressing through other processes rather than a Charter amendment. This resolution records and clarifies motions made at the Council meeting on July 9, 2024, directing recommendations through other policy development processes for additional study and evaluation.

Below are the recommendations directed to other processes. This resolution will define which other process these conversations would fall under and provide clarification to items directed broadly to undefined processes.

3 – Referendum

This item was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

5 – Charter Review

This item was referred to an alternative process for additional study and evaluation during the July 9, 2024, Council Meeting. This item will be addressed by the City Council through Committee of the Whole. Ensuring our volunteers receive training and education and are given the resources and time to complete a thorough review will enhance support for decision making for future Charter reviews. This additional time will allow them to do fiscal and legal analysis to better understand the impacts of implementation, and work more closely with the City Council to understand the issues facing the City. This change can be accomplished through legislation, and it will give us the flexibility to align the process with the needs of our community. The first Committee of the Whole to begin the review of this will commence in 2024.



6 – Neighborhood Council

This item was referred to an alternative process, the 5-year Neighborhood Council Review, which is currently underway in 2024 by Neighborhood and Community Services as required by Tacoma Municipal Code Section 1.45.090 “Review and revision”. This review would bring recommended changes to the Council for consideration in 2024.

8 – Policing Accountability

This item was referred to an alternative process for additional study and evaluation during the July 9, 2024, Council Meeting. This item will be addressed by the Council through their liaison to the Community’s Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) in partnership with the committee. We understand and support the critical importance and intense public interest in police accountability and the public's demand for transparency and justice and are committed to taking action to bring sustainable oversight practices to Tacoma. We as a council believe that addressing this complex issue requires more ongoing, meaningful dialogue and collaboration with CPAC, who have been doing vital work on this topic and must be included in the solutions moving forward. Changes may need to be bargained per state law and taking the time to work together through good faith negotiations and have difficult conversations with CPAC and Local 6 will allow for sustainable accountability. The City Council is committed to bringing forward a bargainable and sustainable policing accountability solution with Local 6 before the end of 2025.

9B – Climate Commission

This item was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for additional study and evaluation. The Council shares the Charter Review Commission’s view that “the city needs to effectively track and hold accountable its commitments to sustainability and climate goals.” The IPS Committee is asked to:

- a) review how a Climate Commission, or otherwise named, might enhance or replace the work of the existing Sustainable Tacoma Commission, and how that commission might be made up;
- b) review establishing a carbon budget, as set forth in the Climate Action Plan and recommended by the Charter Review Commission;
- c) review other ways to empower and accelerate the goals of the Climate Action Plan, including possible code changes, to reach the City’s goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

11 – Landmarks Preservation Commission

This item was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for additional study and evaluation.

19 – Ranked-Choice Voting

This item was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

20 – Campaign Finance

This item was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.



C3B – TPU Board Member Stipends

This item was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

C5 – Initiative Fiscal Notes

This item was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Council Committee for additional study and evaluation. Additional study will evaluate how fiscal notes could be developed for initiatives brought forward by the community on a ballot. This work of the committee will explore a requirement that the City create a process to develop a cost assessment of the initiative language and its impact to the city. This information would then be available to the community through the City’s web page.

X – Caste Discrimination

A motion was made to direct the City Manager to include review of caste discrimination for possible inclusion in the City’s Code. This item was an ancillary consideration by the Charter Review Committee and a new item that was not included in the recommendations reviewed by the City Council prior to the July 9, 2024, meeting. This item was referred to a Council standing committee as determined by the City Manager and work will be reviewed by the Community Vitality and Safety Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City Council has had several discussions over the last two months on which amendments could be addressed through other pathways other than a change to the City Charter. During the July 9, 2024, meeting motions were made to direct certain recommendations to other pathways.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

Under the compressed timeline the City Council was not able to fully address all of the Charter recommendations that were considered. By referring them to other processes this will allow them to continue developing the recommendations and may lead to adoption of new recommendations in the future. Many of the recommendations address specific discrimination language, accessibility to serve in public roles, and large programs or policies like the Neighborhood Councils and police accountability. Continued refinement of these recommendations will better address the diverse needs of our community and ensure that equity remains top of mind during the conversations.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

While not all items were considered for the ballot at this time, continued conversation and refinement gives the community more opportunity to engage in the conversation and assist the City Council in refining their recommendations on several important topics. This engagement will improve trust between the Council and the Community and show they can have a positive impact on their community.

ALTERNATIVES:



Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not adopt Resolution		Motions would not be captured in a single place and would require the public to review past meeting footage to confirm where items landed. It would also leave ambiguity in how some items might be addressed and reported to the public.
2. Amend Resolution	Council can change this resolution to adjust the reporting, and where items would be addressed.	

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

To ensure accountability and public engagement in the continued evaluation of these items, the City Council will report out at public meetings as these items continue to be developed on a regular basis. By the end of 2024 at the latest each Committee will report on their work and then quarterly beginning in 2025 until related recommendations are forwarded to the full City Council for adoption or tabled indefinitely. Should committee work plans prohibit addressing these items in a timely manner, the Council may shift them between committees.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend adoption of this resolution which consolidates items that were sent to other processes at the July 9, 2024, Council Meeting by motion and clarifies which process they will be addressed by.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to adopting this resolution which only directs additional refinement, evaluation, and reporting of these items by the City Council. There may be future fiscal impacts of particular recommendations as those come back to the Council for consideration.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Items referred to existing processes and Council standing committees have processes and staffing in place, and will not require new funding for continued refinement of recommendations.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No