



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Lueders, MCO Division Manager - Franchise Services
Amy Clancy, Media & Communications Office
COPY: GPFC – Chair John Hines; Andy Cherullo, Finance Director; D’Angelo Baker,
Staff Liaison
PRESENTER: Jeff Lueders, MCO – Division Manager – Franchise Services *J.L.*
SUBJECT: Request for Ordinance – Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between
Port of Tacoma and the City of Tacoma
DATE: October 2, 2024

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Request for Action

SUMMARY:

Begin by stating the purpose of the memo. Summarize your conclusion, recommendation, and the basis for your recommendation. State why this item is being brought forward and the response you are seeking from the committee.

BACKGROUND:

The Port of Tacoma and the City of Tacoma negotiated a 10-year Franchise Agreement in 2011 (Ordinance No. 28016) and is now seeking a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement that will allow the Port of Tacoma to continue to operate their own fiber optic network in the Port for an additional 10-years, which is located in the City’s right of way (ROW).

ISSUE:

Port of Tacoma has owned and operated this fiber optic network located in the port since 2011 without incident. Port of the Tacoma, as the provider, is responsible for the maintenance of the fiber optic cable. The TPU Pole Attachment agreement outlines who can work on TPU poles. The City is not responsible to maintain the fiber optic cable nor any costs associated with maintenance.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are other telecommunications vendors that provide this service however the port decided to own and operate their own network and has done so successfully for approximately 13 years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Port of Tacoma will benefit from this agreement, as they will be able to continue to operate their own network. The city has a history of entering into franchise agreements with private companies that wish to do business in the City, who in turn abide by our City code, and the negotiated terms of the franchise agreement.

This agreement also supports the Strategic Goal of a high-performing, open and engaged government.