



**SQF, LLC (Verta), Telecommunications Franchise
Agreement request for Ordinance**

City of Tacoma | MCO – Franchise Services

**Government Performance & Finance Committee
November 18, 2025
ITEM # 1**

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••• **BACKGROUND**

- SQF, LLC (Verta) is a new provider to the City of Tacoma
- SQF, LLC (Verta) is headquartered in Portland, Maine and is already operating in a number of Washington cities.
- Due to the Auburn Case (2001) State law does not allow Franchise Fees to be paid as part of this agreement.

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••• THIS ORDINANCE

- This Franchise has a 10-year term
- Allows the provider to operate in the ROW
- Requires the necessary bonds, letter of credit and insurance required by Title 16B and Title 10 of the Tacoma Municipal Code

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••• Provider Services

- SQF, LLC provides services under a separate name “Square Foot” in Marysville, Washington and they own and develop telecommunications assets in public rights-of-way through out the United States.
- They provide local telecommunications services as a facilities-based provider and reseller to businesses
- They provide Radio Frequency (RF) Transport Services using optical technology to provide high-capacity links enabling businesses to connect wireless equipment to their network
- The services are available to non-residential customers

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••• NEXT STEPS

City Council Consideration –

First Reading – November 24, 2025

Final Reading – December 16, 2025

Publication – December 18, 2025

Effective Date – January 15, 2026

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••• RECOMMENDATIONS

- Staff recommends approval of the SQF, LLC (Verta) Telecommunications Franchise Agreement with the City of Tacoma and further requests that the Government Performance and Finance Committee forward this item to the full City Council for consideration and adoption.

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