



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Council Member Kristina Walker and Council Assistant for Policy Development Claire Goodwin  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Council Contingency Fund Request – Día de los Muertos Event Barricades – December 13, 2022  
**DATE:** December 2, 2022

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution authorizing the use of \$9,019.84 from the Council Contingency Fund to fund barricades that supported the community-organized and Tacoma Creates-sponsored Día de los Muertos procession on October 29, 2022 and incurred this unexpected expense.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Deputy Mayor Catherine Ushka and Council Member Kristina Walker

**BACKGROUND:**

Calavera Collective, a grassroots group of community members, hosted a Día de los Muertos event at the Eastside Community Center on Saturday, October 29, 2022. The event started with a procession from Swan Creek Park to the Community Center along Portland Avenue – travelling from East 40th Street to East 56th Street.

The group was unaware the need for barricades to proceed with the procession due to language barriers. To support this important community event, the City’s Public Works Department’s Transportation Division, secured a company (Tucci & Sons) to supply and set out the barricades needed for a partial street closure. The cost of the barricades was \$9,019.84 which was paid for by the Transportation Division. The Transportation Division staff team also helped day-of with traffic control to support the procession. Typically, the Public Works Department does not cover barricade costs for special events. The scope of the procession, support for the traffic control and permitting process, and timeline, resulted in the Transportation Division taking the initiative to ensure the procession was executed in a safe manner. The scope of the street closure of the advertised procession would not have occurred in a safe manner if the barricades and officers were not in place. This event was sponsored by a grant from Tacoma Creates, and also received support from Metro Parks Tacoma, Tacoma-Peirce County Health Department, and Harvest Pierce County.

Luis García, a member of Calavera Collective, explained the importance of the procession as part of the Día de los Muertos event:

“This year we focus not only on the celebration that remembers and honors our loved ones who are no longer with us, but also on pointing out other social issues such as the safe and shared use of roads for motor vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. The peaceful procession is an important spiritual element of the celebration that allows us to build awareness of belonging on the roads in the Eastside neighborhood.”

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**



This request was initiated by the City’s Transportation Division on behalf of the community members who make up the Calavera Collective – a diverse group of community organizers who want to share their passion for their culture and also encourage others to preserve and value the different cultural expressions in Tacoma’s neighborhoods.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)**

This event celebrated the rich, Mexican holiday known in English as “Day of the Dead” or “Día de los Muertos” in Spanish. This procession, and the barricades funded by the proposal, allowed for the safe passage of community members in the streets and established clear boundaries where the community event was being held to avoid any interactions with vehicles on the roadway. This request fosters the celebration of the diversity of Tacoma’s population by supporting and participating in multi-cultural festivities.

**Civic Engagement: Equity Index Score: Low 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.

**Livability: Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity**

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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

This proposal will 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 by reimbursing the Transportation Division so they are willing and nimble in the future to respond to an urgent community need such as this in the future. This proposal will also increase the positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life by reimbursing the Transportation Division for the cost of the barriers that provided a safe physical boundary between the community event and vehicle traffic in the road.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. No action	Funding available for other identified priorities from the Council Contingency Fund.	The Transportation Division would need to identify other funding sources, likely from their budget.
2. Provide additional funding	Additional funding would show support for the staff’s presence at the event, but is not necessary or requested.	Larger financial ask to the Council Contingency Fund. \$9,019.84 is the amount requested from the Transportation Division and is the exact cost of providing the barriers.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

Success will be defined as the Transportation Division receiving this Council Contingency Fund request to be reimbursed for the costs of the barriers to support this community event.



**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Support a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$9,019.84 to fund barricades that supported the community-organized and Tacoma Creates-sponsored Día de los Muertos procession on October 29, 2022 and incurred this unexpected expense.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This proposal has a fiscal impact of \$9,019.84 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$9,019.84
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$9,019.84</b>

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

**COUNCIL CONTINGENCY FUND**

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

**YES**  
The Council Contingency Fund is provided an established amount of funding each biennium available for Council-sponsored initiatives.

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

**YES**  
The Transportation Division would need to delay data collection and traffic studies to accommodate this unexpected expense.

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

**No**

**Will the legislation change the City’s FTE/personnel counts?**

**No**  
The proposal reimburses the City’s Transportation Division for an unanticipated expense in support of a community-organized event.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution

## 2022 Council Contingency Commitments

<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>
<b>(Remaining balance from 2021 that will be carried over)</b>		
	\$	88,592.09
<b>Council Requested - Seed Internships</b>		
Resolution 40919		
A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$31,000 to fund the full or partial costs of five or more Tacoma-based small businesses or non-profits of hosting a Seed Internship.		
<b>Council Requested - Daffodil Parade</b>		
	\$	20,000.00
Resolution 40925		
A resolution authorizing the one-time use of \$20,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to be applied to the cost of in-kind services provided by the City of Tacoma such as traffic control devices and traffic control services.		
<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Reads</b>		
	\$	10,000.00
Resolution 40934		
A request for City Council concurrence for a \$10,000 City Council Contingency Fund request to support the 2022 Tacoma Reads Together events.		
<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir</b>		
	\$	25,000.00
Resolution 40941		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$25,000 to assist the Tacoma Refugee Choir in funding the music video portion of their 2022 spring projects.		
<b>Council Requested - Litter Free 253</b>		
	\$	2,500.00
Resolution 40940		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund litter pick-up tools "litter grabbers," for the annual volunteer-led Litter Free 253 event.		
<b>Council Requested - South Sound Together</b>		
	\$	12,000.00
Resolution 40948		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,000 to fund grants that support community engagement programs sponsored through South Sound.		
<b>Council Requested - Multicultural Childcare Center</b>		
	\$	5,000.00
Resolution 40986		
A Council Contingency Fund request to purchase infant formula to support the Multicultural Childcare Center formula drive.		
<b>Council Requested - LGBTQIA+ Pride Painting</b>		
	\$	2,500.00
Resolution 40994		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to fund three LGBTQ+ Pride painting projects including temporary rainbow crosswalks, permanent rainbow bricks, and temporary rainbow barriers.		
<b>Council Requested - Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference in Tacoma</b>		
	\$	6,500.00
Resolution 41000		
A \$6,500 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the Mayors Innovation Project Summer Conference in Tacoma.		
<b>Council Requested - Safe Youth Awareness Campaign</b>		
	\$	35,000.00
Resolution 40995		
A resolution authorizing the one time use of Council Contingency Funds, in the amount of \$35,000, to fund the partial costs to develop and implement an eight-week Safe Youth Awareness Campaign beginning in July 2022.		
<b>Council Request - Korean Association Tacoma Building Renovation</b>		
	\$	10,000.00
Resolution 41004		
Council Contingency Fund expenditure to support the Korean Association of Tacoma building renovation.		
<b>Council Requested - Peace Bus "Every Kid Eats" Summer Program</b>		
	\$	2,500.00
Resolution 41015		
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$2,500 to support the Peace Bus and the "Every Kid Eats" summer program		
<b>Council Requested - Hilltop Street Fair</b>		
	\$	10,000.00
Resolution 41018		
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to fund entertainment and arts programming at the 2022 Hilltop Street Fair sponsored by the Hilltop Business Association.		
<b>Council Requested - UWT Celebrando Comunidad 2022 -Latinx Celebration and Awards</b>		
	\$	5,000.00
Resolution 41028		
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the 2nd Annual University of Washington Tacoma Celebrando Comunidad: Latinx Celebration and Awards.		
<b>Council Requested - Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards</b>		
	\$	5,000.00
Resolution 41042		
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards.		
<b>Council Requested - Youth Commission of Tacoma Travel to NLC</b>		
	\$	5,000.00
Resolution 41046		
Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma travel to the National League of Cities Conference		
<b>Council Requested - 2022 Santa Parade</b>		
	\$	5,000.00
Resolution 41074		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the 2022 Santa Parade		
<b>Council Requested - Dia de Los Muertos Event</b>		
	\$	9,019.84
To Council December 13, 2022		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$9,019.84 to fund barricades that supported the community-organized and Tacoma Creates-sponsored Dia de los Muertos procession on October 29, 2022 and incurred this unexpected expense.		
<b>Council Requested - Faith Community Audit</b>		
	\$	10,000.00
To Study Session December 13, 2022		
A Resolution allocating \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support a faith community audit		
<b>Council Requested - Homelessness Solutions Convening with UWT</b>		
	\$	20,000.00
To Study Session December 13, 2022		
A \$20,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to support the convening of community conversations at the University of Washington Tacoma to focus on solutions to homeless in 2023.		
<b>Council Requested - Supporting Ukrainian Refugees</b>		
	\$	20,000.00
To Study Session December 13, 2022		
A contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support the Tacoma Community House in assisting Ukrainian refugees with direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs.		
<b>Council Requested - LeRoy Clock</b>		
	\$	35,000.00
To Study Session December 13, 2022		
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$35,000 for the restoration of the LeRoy Street Clock on Broadway Street in downtown Tacoma.		
<b>Starting Balance</b>	\$	338,592.09
<b>Total Amount Allocated</b>	\$	286,019.84
<b>Current Balance</b>	\$	52,572.25