



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: **Council Member Chris Beale**
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Addressing Wildfire Smoke Health Impacts with Box Fan Filters – August 17, 2021**
DATE: **8/11/2021**

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the use of \$32,407.91 of Council Contingency funds to supplement the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department’s existing box fan filter distribution program with the distribution of an additional 500 box fan filters to East Tacoma, South Tacoma, Central Tacoma, and Northeast Tacoma, based on equity, topography and proximity to pollutants.

[Council Member Chris Beale]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards, Council Members Beale, Hunter, Walker, and Ushka.

BACKGROUND:

This Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

This legislation will provide funds to address the harsh impacts of wildfire smoke on Tacoma residents’ health. Wildfire smoke contains many pollutants, including PM 2.5 or fine particulate matter. PM 2.5 is linked with health effects and most harmful to children, pregnant women, and people with chronic disease, like diabetes, heart and lung disease. Smoking and obesity are also risk factors.

Approximately 17,000 Tacoma households have a family member with a chronic illness that makes them especially vulnerable to wildfire smoke. Some of these households may lack filtration systems or the resources to purchase one.

The potential for wildfires is above normal this year. With funding from Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) will distribute 600 box fan filters to seniors in Pierce County with heart or lung disease, or a history of COVID-19, during the 2021 wildfire season through Community of Focus partners. South Tacoma and East Tacoma are the two Communities of Focus within the City of Tacoma and each of their communities will receive 100 box fan filters. The intent of this legislation is to expand the program to more households in need in the City of Tacoma.

The budget below is for 500 box fan filters. With this funding, TPCHD will supplement the existing funding for box filter fans to provide box fan filters to residents in East Tacoma, South Tacoma, Central Tacoma, and Northeast Tacoma based on equity, topography and proximity to pollutants. TPCHD will partner with local community agencies, medical clinics and schools within these identified communities to identify qualified households.

Budget



Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Box fan	500	\$25.68	\$12,840
Merv 13	500	\$10.34	\$5,170
Fasteners	1000	\$1.10	\$1,100
Sales tax		10.3%	\$1,968.33
Shipping and handling estimate			\$200.00
Subtotal			\$21,278.33
	Hours	Rate	
Staff cost	80	\$48.38	\$3,870.40
Division management		6.50%	\$1,634.67
Indirect rate		21.00%	\$5,624.51
Total			\$32,407.91

*Supply shortages because COVID-19 and regional wildfires may require us to purchase in small batches. Individual item price will vary based on availability.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

We know Tacoma residents need more box fan filters. Data from the Healthy Youth Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System estimate 5,200 children in Tacoma have asthma and up to 12,200 seniors have heart or lung disease.

Age 0-17:

- About 11% of 10th graders in Pierce County report having asthma¹
- That translates to about 5200 kids, if all 0-17 age groups have a similar asthma prevalence as 10th graders.

Seniors:

- About 11%, or 3,100 adults 65+ report having asthma in Tacoma.
- About 19%, or 3,700 adults 65+ report having heart disease in Tacoma.
- About 13%, or 5,400 adults 65+ report having other lung diseases in Tacoma.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

In the last few years our region has seen the devastating impact of wildfire smoke on communities, and the disproportionate harm caused to those with pre-existing health concerns and to the low-income communities who cannot afford to access air filters or other infrastructure to protect their health. This will further existing health disparities in our City. The TPCHD is using a data-centered approach to determine which areas of the City of Tacoma are most impacted by wildfire smoke based on topography and proximate to pollutants. Equity is embedded in their distribution of box filter fans so those most at risk and most in need are the ones served. The equity index score was determined by averaging the result for the Eastside Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), the South Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), the Central Tacoma Neighborhood (low livability index score), and the Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood (very high livability index score). While the Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood has



a very high livability index score, its topography and proximately to the port creates unique challenges during extreme wildfire smoke conditions.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives actions for council or staff to take. Please use table below.

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Take no action	Maintain funds for other emergent needs	Reduced air quality for at-risk individuals during wildfire emergencies
2. Fund fewer box fan filters	Still provide additional resources to those most in need, while maintaining funds for other emergent needs	Reduced air quality for at-risk individuals during wildfire emergencies
3. Fund more (up to 1000) box fan filters	Maximize partnership opportunity with the Health Department to distribute box fan filters	Unknown cost, reduces funds available for other emergent needs

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

The Tacoma Pierce County Health Department should report back to the City Council on the distribution of box fan filters in Tacoma, for both the Puget Sound Clean Energy program and from this supplemental funding. Information should include data on geographic distribution and how distribution was prioritized to different populations. Information can be provided to the City Manager to be included in a weekly report to Council, or, if scheduling allows, in a presentation to a Council Committee.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

The Council Member recommendation is to approve this contingency fund request and enter into a contract with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to provide box fan filters to at-risk communities in Tacoma, to improve health outcomes during wildfire smoke emergencies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please provide a short summary of the fiscal impacts associated with the grant, agreement, policy action, or other action.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
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1030 – Council Contingency Fund	660000		32,407.91
TOTAL			

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Council Contingency Fund

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

YES

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

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

YES

Wildfire smoke causes disproportionate harm to those with pre-existing health concerns and to the low-income communities who cannot afford to access air filters or other infrastructure to protect their health. If action is not taken to mitigate these health impacts than it will perpetuate inequities and increase the cost of providing health care to these communities.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the city’s FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

None

2021-2022 Council Contingency Commitments

2021-2022	\$ 250,000.00
	Committed
Council Requested- South Sound Together	\$ 12,000.00
<i>Resolution 40747</i>	
A resolution authorizing the one-time use of \$12,000, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, for City membership in South Sound Together, for the year 2021.	
Council Requested- Joint Municipal Action Coalition	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Resolution 40751</i>	
A resolution authorizing the one-time use of \$6,000, budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, as the City's contribution towards a Joint Municipal Action Committee sponsored Request for Proposal to provide consulting services to better align the work of participating organizations.	
Council Requested- Opioid Task Force	
<i>Resolution 40753</i>	\$ 2,000.00
A resolution directing the City Manager to allocate \$2,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to support media and broadcasting for the 2021 Pierce County Opioid Summit.	
Council Requested- Gun Violence Prevention	
<i>Resolution 40767</i>	\$ 25,000.00
A resolution directing the City Manager to allocate \$25,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund in order to hire a facilitator to convene workgroups to determine best practices for funding gun violence prevention efforts, and hire a research team to review best practices to address gun and youth violence reduction.	
Council Requested- Tacoma Reads	
<i>Resolution 40793</i>	\$ 10,000.00
City Council concurrence for a \$10,000 City Council Contingency Fund request to support the 2021 Tacoma Reads Together events	
Council Requested - Alling Park	
<i>Resolution 40792</i>	\$ 1,500.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$1,500 to support neighborhood outreach around Alling Park to address illegal use of fireworks by the Safe Streets Campaign, a grassroots organization that unites and inspires neighbors, youth, and businesses to build safe, healthy, and thriving communities.	
Council Requested - Accommodations for Korean Delegation	
<i>Resolution 40811</i>	\$ 5,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support the lodging and accommodations of a student group and host from Korea who are participating at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's 25th Anniversary fundraiser as educational and cultural ambassadors.	
Council Request - Black Lives Matter Mural	
<i>Resolution 40817</i>	\$ 10,000.00
A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to support the Kinsey African American Art & History Collection and installation of a Black Lives Matter mural in Tollefson Plaza.	
Council Requested - South Sound Housing Affordability Partners	\$ 22,000.00
<i>Resolution 40816</i>	
A Resolution authorizing execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement establishing and confirming the City of Tacoma's participation in South Sound Housing Affordability Partners and allocating an estimated \$20,000 - \$22,000 in Council Contingency Funding for startup in 2021.	
Council Requested - Eastside Farmer's Market	
<i>Resolution 40819</i>	\$ 5,500.00
A Resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to support the general operations of the Eastside Tacoma Farmer's Market.	
Council Requested - Box Fan Filter Program	
To Council August 7, 2021	\$ 32,407.91
A resolution authorizing the use of \$32,407.91 of Council Contingency funds to supplement the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's existing box fan filter distribution program with the distribution of an additional 500 box fan filters to East Tacoma, South Tacoma, Central Tacoma, and Northeast Tacoma, based on equity, topography and proximity to pollutants.	

Beginning Balance	\$ 250,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$ 131,407.91
Current Balance	\$ 118,592.00