



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Tacoma City Council
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Council Contingency Fund Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway – Requested for June 11, 2024**
DATE: May 29, 2024

I ask for your support for a \$25,000 Council Contingency Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Council Contingency Fund Request:

In the early morning hours on Saturday, May 18th, 2024, the businesses in the Theater District were attacked by an individual wielding a hammer to break storefront windows. This resulted in over 50 windows damaged with over 90% of them in the half block of Broadway between South 9th Street and 722 Broadway. There was no apparent theft, only vandalism. Tacoma has not seen this level of pure window damage inflicted by a single individual in a single block of retail before. About 16 businesses on Antique Row were impacted.

The immediate impact of the broken windows is simply the cost to repair and or replace them, which typically runs a few thousand dollars. However, the impact of a window, let alone a street of windows is much greater. As one small retailer put it regarding a past broken window, “I lost thousands of dollars in sales because people weren’t sure if I was open or didn’t feel safe stopping by.” This highlights our need to move quickly to re-establish a sense of safety and care both for the businesses and customers.

The stretch of Broadway commonly known as Antique Row is filled with small local retailers who have a single location that provides their primary income. These are the businesses that we want more of in Tacoma broadly and we must show our ability to respond with support when a crisis occurs. The vandalism made some headlines and now the City has the opportunity to support the Antique Row recovery.

This funding would supplement the existing broken windows replacement fund supported by ARPA dollars and would be targeted support specifically for the businesses impacted by this incident and is intended to match dollars raised by the Downtown Tacoma Partnership and impacted businesses. Business owners are now working on a plan to hold a block party to help pay for the damage if insurance doesn’t cover all of the costs.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 25,000

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

In response to the damage to the properties along Broadway, the Downtown Tacoma Partnership hosted a morning meeting at a downtown coffee shop to gather the impacted property and business owners. During this meeting Mayor Woodards, Tacoma Police, and Economic Development staff were present to hear concerns and challenges with window replacement, talk about available funding and the application process and gather feedback on that process. Working directly with impacted businesses will shape how support could be offered for technical assistance, how the funding will be allocated, and how the City will connect with businesses.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**Equity and Accessibility:**

Many of the small businesses along Broadway that were impacted are the sole income for a family, and many are woman or minority owned.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Very Low Opportunity

Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts. Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting. 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)?

By investing in the repair and revitalization of Broadway where these businesses have been impacted, the City can demonstrate its commitment to the small businesses there and improve the trust in institutions, and ensure those properties are not vacated. It also improves the perceptions of livability and safety in the community, supporting a safe and clean downtown. The businesses coming together also supports the civic engagement of the community with city leadership, and their perception that they can have a positive perception on their community.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not fund	More funding available for future needs	Existing dollars may be available but not targeted to this community, and costs would likely exceed the budget available.
2. Increase funding	Allows for more funding for broken window costs	Less funding available for future needs
3. Decrease funding	More funding available for future needs	Costs would likely exceed the budget available

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Community and Economic Development staff will implement the fund and process the applications, and can share the final application numbers and costs with the City Council.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that City Council approve the contingency fund request to demonstrate support of small businesses and mitigate the impact to our downtown core.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$25,000 from Council Contingency Fund.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren at 253-318-0594 or bwarren@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Mayor Victoria Woodards

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES

1.  POS# 2

2.  POS# 6

202A1:B104I Contingency Commitments

2024 - 2025	\$	225,000.00
(Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024)	\$	19,450.00

Resolution 41354

Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

Resolution 41372

Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange	\$	5,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

Resolution 41373

Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival	\$	5,500.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

Resolution 41378

Council Requested - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Ice Processing Center

Resolution 41386

Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir's First Annual Symposium Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Refugee Choir's first annual symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation."

To Council June 4, 2024

Council Requested - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings	\$	20,000.00
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Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation

To Study Session June 4, 2024

Council Requested - Broadway Street Broken Window Repairs	\$	25,000.00
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A \$25,000 Council Contingency Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway

To Council June 4, 2024

Council Requested - Youth Sponsorship to Fuzhou, China	\$	12,500.00
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A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$12,500 to support youth attendance at the Fuzhou Youth Week Convening in late June

Starting Balance	\$	244,450.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	98,000.00
Current Balance	\$	146,450.00