



RESOLUTION NO. 40818

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR BLOCKER, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2 USHKA AND WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION relating to income disparity and inequality; authorizing the
4 execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Mayors for a
5 Guaranteed Income and United Way of Pierce County, establishing the
6 requirements and confirming acceptance of \$500,000 in additional funding
7 for a Guaranteed Income Demonstration in the City.

8 WHEREAS in June 2020, the Mayor signed on to be a founding member of
9 Mayors for a Guaranteed Income ("MGI"), and noted at that time that her
10 participation was motivated by the potential to be connected to non-governmental
11 funding opportunities for local demonstration projects, and

12 WHEREAS in November 2020, the City Council approved an initial
13 Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") accepting \$100,000 in funds from MGI for
14 exploration and/or design of a City Guaranteed Income Demonstration, and

15 WHEREAS in December 2020, with the Mayor as a founding member, MGI
16 offered the City's Guaranteed Income Demonstration an additional \$500,000 in
17 starter funds that could be distributed to participants selected for a Guaranteed
18 Income Demonstration in the City, and

19 WHEREAS in a Study Session presentation on June 29, 2021, United Way
20 of Pierce County, the City's key community partner in administering this work,
21 provided an update on the work done since the initial MOU, including information
22 on the design and implementation steps of a City Guaranteed Income
23 Demonstration, and
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WHEREAS a small group of community leaders have continued discussions and community outreach, including multiple focus groups, to determine what elements should be included in the design of the City’s Guaranteed Income Demonstration, and

WHEREAS partners in this work have included the Mayor, Council Member Walker, United Way of Pierce County, Sound Outreach (administrator of the Center for Strong Families), Tacoma Urban League, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and Tacoma Housing Authority, and a representative from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services has also joined the work group to help inform how a guaranteed income might impact benefits received by participants, as well as align the demonstration efforts with the State’s 10-year plan to dismantle poverty, and

WHEREAS design of the City’s Guaranteed Income Demonstration, known as “Growing Resilience in Tacoma” (“GRIT”), is also being informed by feedback from researchers at University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Guaranteed Income Research (“Center”), and with assistance from the Center, the lessons learned from a local demonstration would be aggregated with data from other validated demonstrations across the nation and inform state and federal policy work going forward, and

WHEREAS among the community leaders who have been engaged, there remains a shared goal to identify additional private or philanthropic dollars for the guaranteed income payments provided to participants in a City demonstration, and



1 WHEREAS as defined by the national MGI initiative, guaranteed income is:
2 (1) monthly cash payments given directly to individuals; (2) unconditional payment,
3 with no strings attached and no work requirements; (3) additional income that is
4 meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net; and
5 (4) guaranteed income that can be a tool for racial and gender equity, and

6 WHEREAS during this time of pandemics and climate disruptions, MGI
7 holds the position that everyone deserves an income floor through a guaranteed
8 income which empowers recipients to address their most urgent individual needs
9 and provides a cushion for unpredictable expenses, external shocks, and volatility,
10 which follows the foundational anti-poverty work pursued by Dr. Martin Luther King
11 Jr., whose speeches used the term “guaranteed income,” and are foundational to
12 MGI’s work, and

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14 WHEREAS early data from the Stockton Economic Empowerment
15 Demonstration (“Stockton”), whereby \$500 per month is provided for 24 months,
16 showed that 40 percent of the funding was spent on food, a percentage that has
17 increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

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19 WHEREAS initial qualitative data from Stockton reflects, among recipients
20 of guaranteed income, improved mental health, the ability to seek medical or
21 dental care, and the ability to better show up for and support their children; Now,
22 Therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

25 Section 1. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to
26 execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Mayors for a Guaranteed



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Income ("MGI") and United Way of Pierce County, establishing the requirements and confirming acceptance of \$500,000 in additional funding from MGI, for the purpose of a Guaranteed Income Demonstration in the City.

Section 2. That the City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized to take and execute any additional measures or documents that may be necessary to complete this transaction which are consistent with the approved form of documents referenced by this Resolution, and the intent of this Resolution.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney