



## RESOLUTION NO. 40881

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HUNTER, McCARTHY, AND THOMS

2 A RESOLUTION relating to the Land Use Regulatory Code; adding consideration  
3 of expanding the districts in which electric fences are allowed to the 2022  
4 Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment work plan and process, and for  
5 review and recommendation by the Planning Commission.

6 WHEREAS, throughout the City, businesses have raised concerns of  
7 increased theft and safety issues that have added severe expenses, and

8 WHEREAS, at the Study Session of November 23, 2021, Council  
9 Member Thoms presented a Council Consideration Request to propose an  
10 amendment to Title 13 of the Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC"), the Land Use  
11 Regulatory Code, which would allow the use of electric fences as a secondary  
12 security method to protect assets such as parking lots, and

13 WHEREAS the fencing would be installed on the inside of a traditional fence  
14 and would work as a secondary deterrent for theft, and

15 WHEREAS, currently, electric fences are prohibited in all zoning districts  
16 except for industrial; the proposed TMC amendments would be limited to zoning in  
17 downtown, commercial, and mixed use districts, and would not include residential  
18 zoning, and

19 WHEREAS sample language and development standards for consideration  
20 can be found in the attached Exhibit "A," and

21 WHEREAS the proposed amendment will require a change to  
22 TMC 13.06.090.K.3, which requires review by the Planning Commission, and  
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WHEREAS the project cycle of the 2022 Annual Amendment to the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and/or the Land Use Regulatory Code runs from January 2021 through June 2022, and

WHEREAS the Planning Commission will make recommendations to the City Council for final review and approval in 2022, and it is necessary to include the proposed application to the Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment in the 2022 process in order to expedite considerations of solutions for local businesses impacted by theft and other public safety concerns; Now, Therefore,

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

That the City Council hereby adds consideration of expanding the districts in which electric fences are allowed to the 2022 Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment work plan and process, and for further review and recommendation by the Planning Commission.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney



## EXHIBIT "A"

### MODEL ELECTRIC FENCE ORDINANCE

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A. The construction and use of electric fences shall be allowed in the City only as provided in this section, subject to the following standards:

1. IEC Standard 60335-2-76: Unless otherwise specified herein, electric fences shall be constructed or installed in conformance with the specifications set forth in International Electro technical Commission (IEC) Standard No. 60335-2-76.

2. Electrification:

a. The energizer for electric fences must be driven by a commercial storage battery not to exceed 12 volts DC. The storage battery is charged primarily by a solar panel. However the solar panel may be augmented by a commercial trickle charger.

b. The electric charge produced by the fence upon contact shall not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph 22.108 and depicted in Figure 102 of IEC Standard No. 60335-2-76.

3. Perimeter fence or wall:

a. No electric fence shall be installed or used unless it is completely surrounded by a non-electrical fence or wall that is not less than five feet.

4. Location: Electric fences shall be permitted on any non-residential outdoor storage areas.

5. Height: Electric fences shall have a height of 10 feet (or 2 feet higher than the perimeter fence whichever is higher).

6. Warning signs: Electric fences shall be clearly identified with warning signs that read: "Warning-Electric Fence" at intervals of not less than sixty feet.

7. Electric fences shall be governed and regulated under burglar alarm regulations and permitted as such.