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**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant to the City Manager; Neighborhood and Community Services, Director  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance – Amending Municipal Code 1.06.075 by Changing the Name of the Citizen Review Panel to the Citizen Police Advisory Committee – July 28, 2015  
**DATE:** July 14, 2015

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**SUMMARY:**

An ordinance amending Tacoma Municipal Code 1.06.075 by changing the name of the Citizen Review Panel to the Citizen Police Advisory Committee; by increasing the number of members to eleven, consisting of one member from each City Council District and five members from the general community for three year terms and one designated youth seat for a one year term; by requiring the Committee members to be residents of Tacoma with at least forty percent of the members from traditionally underrepresented communities; and, by revising the Committee’s duties.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Council Member Woodards

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

Amending Municipal Code 1.06.075 best aligns with the strategic policy priorities below:

- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs; and,
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 28, 2005, the City Council, through Resolution No. 36536, adopted the recommendations of the Human Rights Commission regarding citizen oversight of the Tacoma Police Department and directed the City Manager to implement those recommendations. On February 20, 2007, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 27589, which formally implemented the recommendation by the Human Rights Commission and Police Accountability Workgroup by creating a Citizen Review Panel. This ordinance created and clarified the role of the Citizen Review Panel by amending Tacoma Municipal Code 1.06 and adding a new Section 1.06.075.

At the June 26, 2014 Public Safety, Human Services and Education (PSHSE) Committee meeting, the Citizen’s Review Panel provided an update of its 2013 accomplishments and their 2014 Work Plan. Also at this meeting, the Panel Chair Keith James requested that the City Council consider changing the Tacoma Municipal Code and the name of the Citizen Review Panel to something that describes the Panel’s work and relationship with the Tacoma Police Department more accurately. The PSHSE Committee approved a motion to forward this request to the full City Council for consideration; however, PSHSE Chair Woodards requested that staff review opportunities related to the Equity and Empowerment Initiative for the purpose of modifying the Panel’s duties and include those recommendations in the same legislation as a name change for the Panel.





At the request of Council Member Woodards, City staff have been discussing and developing a community engagement strategy framework through the Equity and Empowerment Initiative, which includes amending Municipal Code 1.06.075 to change the name of the Citizens Review Panel and revising the duties to include:

1. A role in fostering understanding and communications between the citizens of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department and
2. To review and advise the Chief of Police on community relations between the Police Department and the community.
3. The review, development, and recommendation of strategies to the City Council, City Manager and Chief of Police concerning Police department policies, procedures, rules, training, and programs.

Trust between law enforcement and members of the community are critical to public safety and crime prevention and reduction strategies. Recent national events have exposed polarizing and difficult relationships between police and communities they are charged with protecting and serving. In response to many of these national events, several local conversations and convening's related to police and community relations have been held.

It is also recommended that the Committee shall have no power or authority to investigate, review or otherwise participate in matters involving specific police personnel or specific police-related incidents. In addition the Committee would not receive or stand in review of complaints initiated against personnel of the police department, nor have any role in civil or criminal litigation. Should any concern raised by the Committee remain unresolved after receiving a response from the Chief of Police, the Committee may request the matter be referred to the City Manager.

After a discussion on the additional code amendments at the June 8, 2015 Citizen Review Panel meeting, the Panel approved the changes and recommended that the amended language be forwarded to the PSHSE Committee for approval to forward to the full City Council for their consideration and action.

The PSHSE Committee discussed the proposed code amendments at their June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> meetings and requested that staff share the latest revised version with the Citizen Review panel at their July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting, the Citizen Review Panel requested that of the eleven members, there be one designated youth member to serve a one year term.

**ISSUE:**

In order to use the Citizens Review Panel as a resource for the citizens and to foster a better understanding and communications between the citizens of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department, it is necessary to better define the Panel's roles and change the name of the Panel to one that better represents their roles and responsibilities.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could choose to approve, partially approve or reject the amendments to TMC 1.06.075 as recommended.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the City Council approve the Ordinance to change the name and duties of the Citizen's Review Panel and enhance their role in fostering community relations between the Police Department and the community.





**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact related to this requested City Council action.

