



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Donald Ramsdell, Police Chief
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – West End AIA – First Reading: October 21, 2014
DATE: September 30, 2014

SUMMARY:

Requesting authorization to create an Alcohol Impact Area within the West End of Tacoma in an effort to reduce chronic public inebriation.

BACKGROUND:

On February 26, 2013, the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 28135, creating an Alcohol Impact Area within the West End of the City of Tacoma, and directing voluntary efforts to reduce chronic public inebriation be undertaken, and requiring a report regarding these efforts to the City Council by August 31, 2013, so that the City Council could determine whether to request the Washington State Liquor Control Board to restrict alcohol sales in the area.

For over six months, the West End AIA Task Force has worked contacting licensees in the AIA and attempted to obtain voluntary compliance from the licensees to control the problems associated with chronic public inebriation. However, less than 40% of the licensees agreed to the voluntary controls.

The problems associated with public inebriation have been increasing in the West End area in recent years and have continued despite the efforts to obtain voluntary compliance.

State law allows the Washington State Liquor Control Board to recognize a geographic area within a city as an “Alcohol Impact Area” (AIA). The City must adopt an ordinance making findings that an area has experienced significant problems due to the presence of chronic public inebriation or illegal activity associated with alcohol sales or consumption and that at least six months of voluntary efforts to control the problem have not been successful. Once these requirements are met, the City may request that the Liquor Control Board establish an AIA and restrict retailers in the AIA from selling certain types of alcohol products or alcohol product containers, or restrict the hours that these retailers can sell alcohol to go.

The City has met the requirements to request that the Liquor Control Board recognize the West End AIA. The ordinance will make the appropriate findings and direct that the Chief of Police make the request to the Liquor Control Board.

ISSUE:

Chronic public inebriation is an issue in this part of the City of Tacoma.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are no alternatives

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to create an Alcohol Impact Area within the West End of Tacoma.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not Applicable