



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

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Council Member John Hines and Policy Analyst Christina Caan
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Sponsorship of Pictures of Hope – October 3, 2023**
DATE: September 27, 2023

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,750 to sponsor the Pictures of Hope program for Tacoma.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request: Pictures of Hope is an award-winning non-profit program created in 2005 by photojournalist and author Linda Solomon. The program pairs homeless children with volunteer mentors who help the children express their hopes and dreams through the lens of a camera, with the intent of showing each child that their hopes and dreams matter. More than 50 cities have participated in the program, and it has received local and national acclaim, including from NBC Nightly News, ABC World News, the Today Show, USA Today, and CBS Evening News. Many of the children participating in the program have also had their dreams fulfilled by their communities. One child, for example, dreamed of having the opportunity to attend college and was granted a four-year, fully funded scholarship by a local university when the university president saw her picture of hope.

The City's sponsorship of the program would enable Pictures of Hope to work with Tacoma Rescue Mission to serve fifteen homeless children. The children will be shown how to use a digital camera and each one will receive their own digital camera and memory card, as well as a camera bag, to keep as gifts. Each participating child will be paired with a volunteer mentor from the community who will work with the child to learn about their hopes and dreams, and then help them take photos that reflect those hopes and dreams. Linda Solomon will evaluate the photographs taken by the children and select one per child to be featured in a celebratory event attended by friends and family. The children will also receive packets of their photos printed on cards to sell, with all proceeds benefitting the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Any photos sold at the final celebration would also benefit the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

This contingency fund request would allow the City to sponsor the Pictures of Hope program and partner with the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Sponsorship will provide the following items:

- Fifteen Kodak Pro Digital cameras and memory cards for the children
- Fifteen Pictures of Hope tee shirts and camera bags
- Fifteen enlarged 16 x 20 photographs for the final exhibition
- Additional gifts, including photographic medals, provided by Pictures of Hope
- Boxes of 250 copies of the children's Pictures of Hope cards will be printed and shipped to the Tacoma Rescue Mission
- Travel and lodging for Linda Solomon to lead the program

Planning for this event occurred outside the standard City of Tacoma event grant application timeline. This request is intended to provide a one-time opportunity for contingency funds to support the Pictures of Hope program. For future years, event organizers seeking City of Tacoma funds should apply for the City’s event and cultural grant opportunities.

FUNDING REQUEST: \$12,750

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH)

The City will partner with the non-profit Tacoma Rescue Mission for the Pictures of Hope program. For more than 100 years, the Tacoma Rescue Mission has served the homeless community in Tacoma and Pierce County by providing emergency services, such as shelter, food, and other self-sufficiency programs. The Tacoma Rescue Mission will select all participating children and the Pictures of Hope program will provide release forms for the parents or guardians. The photographs taken by the children will be shared with the public via City and Tacoma Rescue Mission outlets.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: The Pictures of Hope program is geared toward supporting and humanizing children experiencing homelessness, while also raising public awareness and funds for the work of the Tacoma Rescue Mission. This program will also help connect homeless children with mentors, helping to foster a community of support for those in need and creating a unique opportunity for community members seeking to provide mentorship. By helping to show children experiencing homelessness that their dreams matter, this program will help restore hope for children, families, and our broader community.

Education: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
 Increase the availability and accessibility of early childhood education programs.
 Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for school levies and bonds; volunteering and mentoring youth.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
 Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
 Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicators?
 This contingency fund request will help provide access to photography equipment and resources that would not generally be accessible for the children participating in the program. The Pictures of Hope program will also provide unique and meaningful opportunities for those seeking to volunteer their time in the community as a mentor. In addition, the program will help expand public awareness of the children experiencing homelessness in Tacoma and the work of the Tacoma Rescue Mission by helping to showcase the photographs taken by the children.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Provide less funding	Preserve some additional contingency funds for other Council priorities.	The Pictures of Hope program would need to decrease the number of children who participate,

		minimizing the event's value to the community.
Provide more funding	Enable the Pictures of Hope program to increase the number of children assisted, expanding the community benefit.	The Pictures of Hope program has not requested additional funds.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

These contingency funds are intended as a one-time funding source for the Pictures of Hope program. Event organizers will be provided with information on how to apply for future grants and event funding opportunities at the City of Tacoma during standard application cycles.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

Sponsors recommend providing \$12,750 for the Pictures of Hope program.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$12,750 from Council Contingency Funds


If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, at (253) 219-0679 (phone) or ccaan@cityoftacoma.org.



SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____
Council Member John Hines

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

1. _____  _____ POS# 3 _____

2. _____  _____ POS# 2 _____

Mayor's initials: 

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024	\$	225,000.00
Resolution 41151		
Council Requested - South Sound together	\$	12,000.00
A Resolution authorizing 2023 membership in South Sound Together, in the amount of \$12,000.		
Resolution 41150		
Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship	\$	4,800.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference		
Resolution 41163		
Council Requested - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023	\$	5,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit		
Resolution 41162		
Council Requested - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative	\$	10,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization's "One Bag Drive" to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.		
Resolution 41161		
Council Requested - Wheelstops	\$	12,500.00
Contingency Fund of \$12,500 expenditure to install wheelstops along South D street, from S. 72nd to S. 74th on the east side of the street.		
Resolution 41160		
Council Requested - Khmer New Year Celebration	\$	10,000.00
Council Member Bushnell provides the attached Council Action memorandum for a Resolution authorizing the use of \$10,000 of Council contingency funding to support the first annual Khmer New Year Celebration.		
Resolution 41173		
Council Requested - Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference	\$	20,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault conference for \$20,000.		
Resolution 41181		
Together We End Gun Violence Conference	\$	10,000.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Together We End Gun Violence Conference.		
Resolution 41216		
Mitigating Impact of City's Light Rail Investment	\$	20,000.00
Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the City's light rail investment for the Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events.		
Resolution 41217		
City of Tacoma 2023 Juneteenth Celebration	\$	2,500.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the City's 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.		
Resolution 41215		
Summer Coding Workshop Series Sponsorship	\$	7,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab and hosted by Tacoma Public Libraries.		
Resolution 41225		
Buffalo Solider Museum Event Sponsorship	\$	6,000.00
Council contingency fund expenditure of \$6,000 to sponsor the Buffalo Soldiers Museum's event, "Honoring Our Military Labor Force."		
Resolution 41246		
2023 National Association of Local Boards of Health Conference Sponsorship	\$	20,000.00
Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council contingency funds to sponsor the 2023 National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference.		
Resolution 41245		
6th Avenue Business District's Art on the Avenue Festival	\$	10,000.00
A resolution authorizing \$10,000 in Council contingency funds to support the 6 th Avenue Business District's 2023 Arts on the Avenue event.		
Resolution 41271		
Historic Cushman Street Fair Sponsorship	\$	8,000.00
Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$8,000 for the Historic Cushman Street Fair, sponsored by the North End Neighborhood Council (NENC).		
Resolution 41272		
Poverty to Possibilities Summit Sponsorship	\$	5,000.00
A \$5,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the Poverty to Possibilities Summit.		
Resolution 41274		
Tacoma Tree Foundation	\$	10,000.00
A \$10,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to assist the Tacoma Tree Foundation to purchase a truck.		
To Study Session October 3, 2023		
Pictures of Hope Sponsorship	\$	12,750.00
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$12,750 to sponsor the Pictures of Hope program for Tacoma.		
Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	185,550.00
Current Balance	\$	39,450.00