



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Kim Bedier, Director, Public Assembly Facilities
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Amendment to the Charter of Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District – July 22, 2014
DATE: June 26, 2014

SUMMARY:

The Board of Directors for the Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District (PFD) recommends a resolution by the legislative bodies of the participating jurisdictions (Tacoma, University Place, Fife, Lakewood and Pierce County) to eliminate in its entirety Article VI (Limits on District Powers), Section 2 of the above referenced charter:

No part of the activities of the District shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; and the District shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for office.

The elimination of this section would enable the Board to actively participate in the Association of Washington State Public Facilities Districts and to more effectively advocate on behalf of the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center (GTCTC). Approval for this amendment is sought from Tacoma City Council. Similarly, this resolution will be brought before the other participating jurisdictions listed above by each jurisdiction’s board representative for their respective approval.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage and promote an open, effective, results-oriented organization.
- The intent of this proposed charter revision is to allow involvement and engagement of the participating jurisdictions through membership in the Association of Washington State PFDs, a voluntary association formed in 2011 to support and enhance the exchange of information, delivery of services and other matters that serve the interest of its members.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District is to facilitate the construction and operations of the GTCTC. The PFD has the authority to collect .033% sales and use tax which is used towards payment of the long term debt of the GTCTC. This sales tax rebate expires 20 years from the establishment date of each PFD, or in the case of GTCTC, in 2019.

The Association of Washington State Public Facilities Districts was formed as a collective voice of the State PFDs and one of its goals is to work towards extending the .033% sales tax rebate beyond the current 20 year timeframe. The Association employs a lobbyist to work with and educate state legislators.

The original PFD charter was written with language which precluded any activities which might attempt to influence legislation. In order for the PFD to participate fully in the initiatives of the Association of Washington State PFDs, the charter must be amended. The PFD Board voted unanimously to bring this amendment forward to the participating jurisdictions for approval.

ISSUE:

The charter of the Tacoma Regional Convention Center PFD must be amended to allow membership in the Washington Association of PFDs.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Directors has agreed upon the value of membership in the WA Association of PFDs and has voted to recommend the required amendment to the charter to permit such membership.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council pass a resolution amending the charter of the Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center PFD to allow it to join the Washington State Association of PFDs and participate fully in advocating on behalf of the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact