



## City of Tacoma

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### City Council

Dear Members of the Pierce County Council,

On behalf of the Tacoma City Council, we write to express our strong support for Proposed Ordinance No. O2026-501, which would levy an additional one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax in Pierce County for criminal justice purposes as authorized under RCW 82.14.345.

Public safety is a core responsibility of county government and a top priority for residents throughout Pierce County. Our communities rely on a coordinated and well-functioning justice system that includes law enforcement, prosecution, defense, courts, jail operations, and related justice services. These systems are deeply interconnected across jurisdictional boundaries, and their effectiveness depends on sustained and reliable funding.

Pierce County dedicates a significant portion of its General Fund to public safety and justice system functions, reflecting both the scale and importance of these services. At the same time, the County faces the same ongoing structural budget challenges as the City of Tacoma and other local governments. Without new, stable, and ongoing revenue, maintaining current service levels will become increasingly difficult, with impacts felt across the entire justice system.

In 2025, the Washington State Legislature recognized these challenges by authorizing local governments to adopt a justice and unified safety tax through Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2015. The City of Tacoma has already taken action to implement this authority, understanding that proactive investment is necessary to sustain essential public safety services and meet community expectations.

We believe it is critical that jurisdictions throughout Pierce County act collaboratively and regionally in support of our shared justice system. A coordinated approach helps ensure consistency, stability, and fairness across the region, while strengthening the collective ability of local governments to serve residents effectively.

For these reasons, the Tacoma City Council respectfully urges your support for Proposed Ordinance No. O2026-501. We appreciate the Pierce County Council's leadership and thoughtful consideration of this

important measure, and we look forward to continued partnership in advancing public safety and justice throughout our region.

Sincerely,

Mayor Anders Ibsen

Council Member John Hines – Position 1

Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh – Position 2

Council Member Jamika Scott – Position 3

Council Member Sandesh Sadalge – Position 4

Council Member Joe Bushnell – Position 5

Council Member Latasha Palmer – Position 6

Council Member Olgy Diaz – Position 7

Council Member Kristina Walker – Position 8

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