



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Kristina Walker and Council Assistant Claire Goodwin
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Council Contingency Fund Request - \$5,500 to Support Eastside Farmer's Market
DATE: July 21, 2021

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$5,500 to support the general market operations of the Eastside Tacoma Farmer's Market.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request: The Tacoma Farmer's Market operates on a slim budget and is dependent on thriving farmer's markets to sustain the robust and quality markets residents have come to expect. The Eastside Farmer's Market spends \$30,000 to operate each year - running June through August - and typically only earns about \$5,000 in revenue from vendor fees. This 2021 season has been particularly hard on the Eastside Farmer's Market and since the market opened in June has lost more than 50% of its vendors by mid-July. This loss in vendors translates into reduced shoppers at the market which has led to reduced revenue. This market is in a Census-designated Low-Income, Low-Supermarket Access neighborhood and the market provides an important option for shoppers with limited access to healthy and fresh food. The Eastside Farmer's Market is a crucial community asset benefitting residents living in a "low-opportunity" area of the City as designated by the City's Equity Index. The Tacoma Farmer's Market also accepts and matches EBT/SNAP benefits at all market locations, providing a valuable resource to residents with limited incomes.

Compounding the need for assistance, the Eastside Farmer's Market has historically been supplemented by the prosperous Broadway Farmer's Market that serves downtown patrons and relies heavily on daytime shoppers that would stop by on lunch breaks from work. Since the pandemic has sent many downtown workers to telework from home, this has led to reduced revenue at the Broadway Farmer's Market, which means less supplemental revenue for the Eastside Farmer's Market.

The \$5,500 Council Contingency Fund request will ensure the Eastside Farmer's Market will be able to sustain basic services through next year. Without the funding, the Eastside Farmer's Market will be less likely to provide activities at the market, provide fewer cooking demonstrations, provide fewer waived vendor fees when necessary to help struggling farmers, and would need to reduce the market's outreach and marketing campaign.

**FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 5,500**

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Select Index Score.

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

If you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Council Assistant Claire Goodwin at (253) 219-0679 or claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Council Member Kristina Walker

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  **POS# Mayor**

2.  **POS# 5**

Mayor's initials

