



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Chris Beale and Senior Management Fellow Bucoda Warren
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: **Support Tenant Outreach and Education through Funding for the Tenants Union of Washington and The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee**
DATE: January 28, 2019

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:

I respectfully request City Council concurrence to direct the City Manager to allocate \$20,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund and negotiate a contract for services to support tenant outreach and education through the Tenants Union of Washington and The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

On November 20, 2018, the City of Tacoma unanimously passed a robust set of tenant rights and protections to help promote housing security, address the impacts of displacement, and prevent homelessness. These protections include extended notice to vacate, relocation assistance, extended notice of rent increase, prohibition of retaliation, and installment payments for move in costs, among others.

The City's Office of Equity and Human Rights budgeted \$25,000 for public outreach to educate tenants and landlords on the new laws and their rights under the laws, and the responsibility of landlords to provide information. These meetings will take place in each district of the city and provide translation and other accessibility options as needed to provide equitable outreach to as many tenants as possible. This additional outreach provided by the Tenants Union of Washington and The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee will supplement existing efforts to connect tenants to resources and advocate for their interests.

This proposal is aligned with the City's Affordable Housing Action Strategy, which includes a strategic objective to "help people stay in their homes and communities." A recommended action is to "work with partners to increase community organizing" (Action 3.3). Helping people stay in their homes is beneficial for the population of Tacoma as a whole. Renters, particularly those with fewer resources, often rely on their neighbors and community for support, so remaining in place helps maintain community strength and vitality.

These efforts would occur in 2019. The deliverables provided over this timeframe as identified by the Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee include:

- 8 tenant led public meetings in central, south, and east Tacoma with 50 attendees per meeting.

- “Train the trainer” training for community groups and direct service providers who work with tenants, with a goal of reaching 10 groups and at least 50 direct service providers.
- Outreach to 5,000 tenants through 25 volunteers

The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee is not able to directly contract with the City which requires contracting will be done through the Tenants Union of Washington. The Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee has worked closely with the Tenants Union of Washington which would also provide technical support and assistance for the project.

Success will be measured through the following metrics:

- Track the number of people who attended meetings
- Track the number of people we contacted
- Track the number of organizations and community groups reached
- Track how many tenants are reporting landlord violations to the City
- Evaluation sheets for meetings (more tenants will agree that our presentations improved their knowledge of Tacoma’s tenant protections and how to report violations)
- Collect feedback on barriers to reporting landlord violations, enforcement processes, and how tenants can be better supported by the city
- Collect feedback on what would help tenants better understand the tenant protection laws

Below is a breakdown of the budget proposed.

Topic	Item	Amount
Public Meetings	Space rental	1000
	Food	1000
	Language interpreters	2000
Outreach	Printed materials (fliers, handouts, door hangers, etc)	1000
	Social media advertising	200
Coordination	Tenant leader coordinator, 10 hrs/week, \$15/hr, (Feb-July)	3800
	program manager, part-time salary, contracted with Futurewise (May-July)	6000
Technical Support	Tenants Union of WA (serve as fiscal sponsor and provide training curriculum and additional support to program staff)	2500
Admin fees	Payroll, accounting, etc.	1000
	Contingency	1500

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PATH:

☐ **Request for policy development and legislation**

This item is best aligned with the purview of the following Council Standing Committee (refer to Council Standing Committee Process Manual):

☐ Community Vitality and Safety

☐ Economic Development

☐ Government Performance and Finance ☐ Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability

☒ **Request for Resolution**

☒ **Is there a specific deadline for this request?** *(Note: All Council Consideration Requests will be expedited as soon as possible) 2/5/2019*

Please provide a brief explanation of deadline. Next Study Session.

FUNDING REQUESTED:

☒ **Council Contingency Fund Request** *Please provide the Council Contingency Fund Biennial Budget Document if this request is for the use of this fund.

Does the request require some other type of funding? ☒ One-time ☐ Ongoing

\$20,000

☒ Pursuant to TMC 1.06.256 and 1.06.257 procurement of the services through this CCR are deemed to be in the best interests of the City and the competitive solicitation process should be waived. *(Check if competitive waiver is requested)*

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Bucoda Warren at (253) 594.7925 or Bucoda.Warren@CityofTacoma.org.



SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____
Council Member Chris Beale

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS 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 # 1