



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Mayor Victoria Woodards and Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution - Directing the City Manager to take certain actions related to the Tacoma Police Department's current assessment, and the collection and reporting of data, including traffic enforcement and the origins of calls that result in use of force, in support of transformation efforts to address racial disparities in policing and eliminate racially disparate outcomes  
**DATE:** November 5, 2020

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A resolution directing the City Manager to take certain actions related to the Tacoma Police Department's current assessment, and the collection and reporting of data, including traffic enforcement and the origins of calls that result in use of force, in support of transformation efforts to address racial disparities in policing and eliminate racially disparate outcomes

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Blocker, Council Members Beale and Walker

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council passed Resolution No. 40622, and affirmed the City Council's dedication and commitment to comprehensive and sustained transformation of all institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism, with initial priority being given to policing in the City of Tacoma. Tacoma Police Department data and national studies, such as those by the Center for Policing Equity, show disparities in policing by race, including use of force, particularly for Black community members.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, being a driver in a traffic stop is nationally the most common interaction that the public has with police, and traffic stops can result in additional investigation and/or a search. In another study of over 100 million traffic stops published May of 2020 in peer-reviewed journal "Nature Human Behaviour," the authors found that Black drivers were 20 percent more likely to be stopped than white drivers relative to their share of the residential population. Black drivers were searched about 1.5 to 2 times as often as white drivers in the United States, and the authors of this national study concluded that "police stops and search decisions suffer from persistent racial bias and point to the value of policy interventions to mitigate these disparities".

While seeking to better understand when and how these disparities originate, the City Council finds it is reasonable and necessary to take action to identify the issue, and support decision making through data collection. The City Manager should work with the Tacoma Police Department to collect data on traffic stops and contacts, and direct the Tacoma Police Department to provide this information to The Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC). CPAC is the public body that reviews use of force data and provides recommendations on Tacoma Police Department Policy, and is the most appropriate venue for review of such data and recommendations to be forwarded to the City Council.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Use of force statistics nationally and from the Tacoma Police Department show that there is a disparity in how is contacted by police, and when use of force is utilized. The collection of additional data will impact all residents through a better understanding of the disparate impact to our communities.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

Data collection on the disparate impacts of enforcement in Tacoma will support ongoing strategic work and policy review that will help to promote overall understanding of the origin and prevention of existing disparities and will be a part of the anti-racist systems transformation work already happening.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

| Alternative(s) | Positive Impact(s) | Negative Impact(s)   |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1.Do not Pass  | None               | The City will not have the data to compare to national studies, and will not be able to use those data points to support future legislation or policies. |

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

Data on traffic stops and police contacts will be collected and reported to the Community’s Police Advisory Committee, which may make recommendations on actions to reduce disparities in enforcement.

**SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that this resolution is passed to begin vital data collections and find supported solutions to reducing disparities in enforcement in Tacoma.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**What Funding is being used to support the expense?**

N/A

**Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?**

N/A

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

No

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

No

**Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?**

No