



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager, Finance Department  
Andy Cherullo, Finance Director  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance – Tacoma Municipal Code Sub-title 6B Amendments – June 2, 2020  
**DATE:** May 15, 2020

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

An ordinance related to the Business License Code, amending Sub-title 6B of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC), to add authority for the Finance Director to waive or extend license requirements when there is an economic recession or a state of emergency has been declared and the Director deems actions related to the Business License Code necessary to mitigate harm to the public health, safety and welfare.

**BACKGROUND:**

**The Departments Recommendation is Based On:** The City’s licensing code includes regulatory license requirements for specific business industries to ensure the business operates safely and protects public health, safety and welfare.

The current state of emergency due to COVID-19 has greatly affected the local economy with some of the small local Tacoma businesses hit the hardest.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and Stay Home Stay Healthy Order issued by the Governor, some of the local for-hire companies who have seen a large decrease in service requests during this time, contacted the Tax & License division inquiring whether some of the upcoming for-hire licensing requirements can be waived.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

In an effort to support local businesses, the proposed amendment would allow the Director to waive or extend license requirements during an economic recession or declared emergency that would provide some relief to local businesses who fall under the City’s licensing requirements.

**Livability: Equity Index Score:** Moderate Opportunity

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

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

An immediate issue related to the City’s regulatory licensing program are upcoming requirements related to for-hire vehicle renewals. Providing the Director the authority to allow for a one-time waiver of the vehicle age requirement and required annual inspection fee for the current licensing period will provide some temporary economic relief for the local for-hire companies.



**ALTERNATIVES:**

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Don't add the ability for the Director to extend or waive licensing requirements during an economic recession or declared emergency.		May create a disproportionate impact to small businesses during an economically difficult period.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

None Needed.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Amending Sub-title 6B to provide the Director the authority to extend or waive license requirements during a economic recession or declared emergency to mitigate public health, safety and welfare.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact will depend on specific fees being waived or delayed and the frequency that this authority is utilized.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. Business Licenses	106500	Variable	Variable
<b>TOTAL</b>			

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

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

**NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW**

The impact will depend on specific fees being waived and the frequency that this authority is utilized.

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

No

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

YES

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

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.