



City of Tacoma

City Council

June 6, 2023

Washington Administrative Office of Courts
1112 Quince St. SE
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504

The Tacoma City Council is pleased to write this letter of support for Tacoma Municipal Court's application for FY2024 State Funding for Therapeutic Courts in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. We are very proud of the initial work Tacoma's Municipal Therapeutic Court has undertaken. We support its efforts to build stronger and safer neighborhoods with a holistic approach that focuses on connecting court participants to community-based treatment programs and other supportive social services. We value and endorse the Therapeutic Court's goals to reduce recidivism, increase overall independence, and improve public safety in our community.

Our City Council is dedicated to promoting programs that improve the well-being of all Tacoma residents. We must do all we can to support individuals facing significant life challenges, such as mental health concerns, substance use disorders, trauma, housing instability, education barriers, limited job opportunities, and food insecurity. We understand that those involved in the criminal justice system face these challenges at a disproportionate rate.

Our City Council is actively working to learn more about criminal justice system responses. In addition to conversations between the Council and the Tacoma Municipal Court, the Deputy Mayor and Members of the Council have visited therapeutic courts across the state in collaboration with our Tacoma Municipal Court staff. Our Deputy Mayor and Councilmembers have greatly appreciated learning about this innovative approach and are glad to see these exciting programs being developed in our city.

Tacoma Municipal Court has the City Council's full support as they work to grow their therapeutic court program. We are grateful for the opportunity to endorse their application in hopes that these programs will continue to benefit justice-involved Tacoma community members and our city as a whole.

Sincerely,

[City Councilmember signatures to be added pending approval]

DRAFT