



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Sandesh Sadalge and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPY: City Clerk and City Council
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Senior Services Transition Support – December 3, 2024**
DATE: November 20, 2024

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$30,000 to support the transition of Tacoma’s senior services from Lighthouse and Beacon Activity Centers to Metro Parks Tacoma facilities, subject to the approval of the transition of services to Metro Parks Tacoma facilities in the 2025-2025 Biennium Budget.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards and Council Members Bushnell, Rumbaugh, and Sadalge.

BACKGROUND:

Sponsors’ Recommendation is Based On:

The City of Tacoma is working on a partnership agreement with Metro Parks Tacoma to expand and enhance services for seniors aged 50 and older. This collaboration aims to leverage the resources and expertise of both organizations to provide a wider range of programs, activities, and resources for Tacoma’s growing senior population, while addressing the evolving needs of Tacoma as a whole.

- **Enhanced Programs and Activities:** Metro Parks Tacoma brings a wealth of experience in senior services, offering a wider variety of programs and activities that cater to diverse interests and needs. This means more choices and opportunities for our seniors to stay active, engaged, and connected.
- **Expanded Reach:** By lowering the eligible age from 60 to 50, Metro Parks Tacoma extends its services to a broader segment of the population, ensuring that more individuals can benefit from the support and resources they provide.
- **Increased Accessibility:** The City remains committed to providing transportation. And, with four more conveniently located community centers, Metro Parks Tacoma offers greater accessibility for seniors, including those who prefer to utilize public transportation. This ensures that more seniors can participate in programs and activities without facing transportation barriers.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** This proposed transition exemplifies the City’s commitment to forging strategic partnerships that maximize resources and expertise. By collaborating with Metro Parks Tacoma, the City can ensure the delivery of high-quality senior services while utilizing resources to address other critical needs, such as homelessness, public safety and affordable housing.

Tacoma is a city that values its seniors. This proposed transition is not about abandoning our senior population but rather about embracing a new and improved approach to senior services. By partnering with Metro Parks Tacoma, the City has chosen to invest in the wellbeing of its seniors, ensuring they have access to the resources and support they need to thrive in our vibrant community.

The Lighthouse and Beacon Activity Centers are anticipated to end senior services at the end of 2024 and contracted Metro Parks Tacoma services has an anticipated start date of January 1, 2025. In recognition of feedback from senior community members about the transition timeline, this contingency fund request will extend services for Lighthouse Activity Center for an additional 30 days. During this extension, programming (SAIL classes, quilting, etc.) will have already transitioned to Metro Parks Tacoma facilities and will not be offered at Lighthouse, but the space would be open for use during normal hours and people could come in and do puzzling, cards, socializing, etc. Lunch would continue. Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) will have staff on site for 30 days to support the extended transition. This will look like being present at Lighthouse from 10 AM – 2 PM each day in January to help seniors select a new location to attend and talk through various program



offerings. Staff will also use this time to make phone calls to any seniors that have not indicated a preferred location or registered with Metro Parks Tacoma.

This extension builds on existing outreach work to our senior services participants. In the month of December, City staff is planning to attend the Metro Parks Tacoma tabling sessions and provide information on various offerings, how to get registered, transportation and sign-up participants to tour Metro Parks Tacoma facilities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Participants in senior programming at the Lighthouse and Beacon Activity Centers have contacted Mayor and Council to share their apprehension about this transition in services. CM Sadalge, CM Rumbaugh, and Mayor Woodards have attended in-person outreach events at the activity centers to hear participants concerns firsthand.

Information sessions with City and Metro Parks staff will continue to be offered throughout the month of December and this funding would allow additional opportunities for seniors to have questions addressed and make decisions about which center to attend.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

According to the 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 14.7% of Tacoma residents are 65 and older. In 2019, the City of Tacoma adopted an Age-Friendly City Action plan that acknowledged the 8 Domains of Livability framework used by many of the towns, cities, counties, and states enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. These included Community Health Services, Communication and Information, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Housing, Transpiration, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, and Work and Civic Engagement.

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.

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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

Investing in the transition between senior service providers will directly support the City’s efforts to be an Age-friendly City. This resolution will provide additional time for City staff and community partners to connect with seniors who have participated in past programs and assist them in staying connected to City-funded programming at new locations. This will help prevent social isolation and the numerous health and safety concerns that comes with it, while also connecting seniors to other key resources identified as valuable in our Age-friendly Action Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not extend senior services at Lighthouse	Save Council resources for other priorities, clearly direct seniors seeking resources to new program	Shorter transition timeline than requested by seniors
2. Extend senior services for a longer set time at Lighthouse and/or Beacon	Provides more options for seniors at preferred locations.	Delays transferring to new, more expansive programs, contingency funding not available
3. Do not change senior service providers and locations	Current seniors utilizing current program who do not want to	Would be more costly and require offsets in proposed 2025-2026 biennium budget, while not



	change locations could maintain services	expanding services to a larger population at more locations
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EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

After the 30-day extension is complete, the City Manager should provide an update to Council on staff's efforts to outreach to senior participants and connect them to the new Metro Parks Tacoma programs.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend adopting this resolution and allocating \$30,000 in contingency funds to extend senior services at Lighthouse Activity Center for 30 days to enhance the transition between existing and new senior services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. 1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000	5330100	\$30,000
2.			
TOTAL			\$30,000

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 Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

List attachments using bullet points.

- Resolution.

Contingency Commitments

2024	\$	225,000.00
(Remaining balance that will be carried over in March / April 2024)	\$	19,450.00

Resolution 41354

Council Requested - Raising Girls Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor 500 Raising Girls winter care bags with personal hygiene and menstrual products, as well as warm winter items, for low-income Tacoma students.

Resolution 41372

Council Requested - Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange	\$	5,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 request to sponsor the Moroccan Sister City Committee Cultural and Economic Exchange.

Resolution 41373

Council Requested - Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Culture Festival	\$	5,500.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,500 to sponsor Metro Park's Mosaic Arts and Cultural Festival.

Resolution 41378

Council Requested - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest (AIDNW) for their Phone Call Fund to support access to phone services for detainees in the Northwest Ice Processing Center

Resolution 41386

Council Requested - Tacoma Refugee Choir's First Annual Symposium Sponsorship	\$	10,000.00
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A Council contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Refugee Choir's first annual symposium, "From Welcoming to Cooperation."

Resolution 41442

Council Requested - Facilitation of Pierce County Climate Conversation Meetings	\$	20,000.00
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Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Pierce County Climate Conversation

Resolution 41449

Council Requested - Broadway Street Broken Window Repairs	\$	25,000.00
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A \$25,000 Council Contingency Request for matching funds to support broken window replacement for businesses affected along Broadway

Resolution 41448

Council Requested - Youth Sponsorship to Fuzhou, China	\$	12,500.00
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A Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$12,500 to support youth attendance at the Fuzhou Youth Week Convening in late June

Resolution 41471

Council Requested - South End Neighborhood Council (SEnCo) Block Party & Resource Fair	\$	10,000.00
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A resolution authorizing the \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the South End Neighborhood Council's 2024 Block Party & Resource Fair for the purpose of sharing information about public resources offered by the City of Tacoma and other organizations, and to build community connections and increase participation in SENCo meetings and activities.

Resolution 41526

Council Requested - Historic Cushman Street Fair Support	\$	5,000.00
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A Resolution for support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of \$4,000 to support the Historic Cushman Street Fair

Resolution 41539

Council Requested - Pride-themed Decorative Crosswalk	\$	35,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$35,000 for a Pride-themed decorative crosswalk on Broadway in downtown Tacoma.

Resolution 41533

Council Requested - Alchemy Skateboarding Expansion and Youth Access Fund	\$	10,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Alchemy skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund.

Resolution 41534

Council Requested - Historic McKinley District Halloween Parade	\$	5,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Historic McKinley District Halloween Parade .

Resolution 41555

Council Requested - Urban Reuse Program Assessment and Action Strategy	\$	20,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support an Urban Wood Reuse Program Assessment and Action Strategy.

To Council December 3, 2024

Council Request - Hilltop Holiday Event	\$	5,000.00
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A Resolution for a Council contingency fund expenditure to sponsor the Hilltop holiday event.

To Council December 3, 2024

Council Requested - Senior services from Lighthouse and Beacon Senior Centers to Metro Parks Facilities	\$	30,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$30,000 to support the transition of Tacoma's Senior Center services from Lighthouse and Beacon Senior Centers to Metro Parks facilities.

Starting Balance	\$	244,450.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	218,000.00
Current Balance	\$	26,450.00