



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Randall Lewis, Government Relations Officer, Government Relations
Alisa O’Hanlon, Government Relations Analyst, Government Relations
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution amending and adopting the Legislative Policy Statement for 2019-2020 –
October 16, 2018
DATE: September 19, 2018

SUMMARY:

The City Council has established statements of policy expressing its views concerning issues which may come before the Washington Legislature and the United States Congress. It is periodically necessary to amend this document to reflect changes in position and emerging issues.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The Legislative Policy Statement covers dozens of issues which may impact the operation of the City, services provided by the City or the wellbeing of the citizens of Tacoma in general. These issues touch all of the City’s Strategic Policy Priorities:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Policy Statement contains brief background information and policy positions on many issues which may be considered in any given session of the Washington Legislature and the United States Congress. This document is not the City’s legislative agenda for any given year but a broad statement of policy on issues which the City Council and City staff may be expected to express a position. It is necessary to periodically amend the document as issues change, are resolved, and/or new issues emerge.

The draft Legislative Policy Statement was discussed at the September 18th Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Study Session. Requests for changes to the Statement made at that meeting have been tracked in the attached Statement. Any yellow highlighted language in the draft Statement reflects revisions made by Council, U-Board and staff members after the public discussion at the September 18th Joint Study Session.

ISSUE:

The City has traditionally amended the Legislative Policy Statement prior to the beginning of a new session of the Washington Legislature and United States Congress in odd-numbered years.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not amending the Legislative Policy Statement would not prevent the City from developing a specific legislative agenda for a given year. Keeping this document current allows City staff to most efficiently represent the City Council’s interests before the State and Federal governments.



RECOMMENDATION:

The changes proposed to the Legislative Policy Statement reflect the recommendation of the Government Relations Office to best align the City Council's views on the issues covered in the document with their current status and to clarify language and address errors where needed. Additional recommended revisions from Council, U-Board and staff members have been included in the draft on file.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in amending the City's Legislative Policy Statement.