



RESOLUTION NO. 39464

1 A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to commit up to \$500,000,
2 budgeted from UDAG Funds, as a local match to an i6 Challenge Grant for
3 the purpose of creating a Biotech Accelerator aligned with military health at
4 the former Nativity House, located at 2304 Jefferson Avenue.

4 WHEREAS the City Council's policy initiatives for economic vitality in
5 Vision 2025 include diversifying the local economy and increasing living wage jobs
6 for citizens of the City and surrounding community, and

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8 WHEREAS, on May 24, 2016, the Economic Development Committee
9 approved a motion recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager
10 to commit up to \$500,000 in local repaid UDAG funds as a match to an
11 i6 Challenge Grant ("Grant") offered through the Regional Innovation Strategies
12 Program of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and

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14 WHEREAS the University of Washington-Tacoma ("UWT") will apply for the
15 grant as part of a multi-partner effort to create a Biotech Accelerator aligned with
16 military health at the former Nativity House, located at 2304 Jefferson Avenue in
17 Tacoma, and

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19 WHEREAS the City and the South Puget Sound region have significant
20 resources for furthering medical and biotechnological innovation due to research
21 activities and initiatives at Madigan Army Medical Hospital and MultiCare's
22 Institute for Research and Innovation, and

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24 WHEREAS Madigan, the U.S. Army's second largest medical center,
25 features a robust research program, and MultiCare has a fully integrated medical
26 record system and diverse patient population at five hospitals and several specialty



centers and clinics, and, between the two entities, more than 500,000 patients
1 support and benefit from advances in medical care, and

2 WHEREAS the University of Puget Sound and UWT are building
3 increasingly robust curriculums in microbiology, bioinformatics, and health
4 promotion to prepare students for jobs in these fields and for entrepreneurs to
5 create new products and companies which can leverage regional needs into
6 health benefits and living wage jobs in the City and surrounding community, and
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8 WHEREAS, consistent with the City Manager's 2016 Key Strategic
9 Objectives, the South Sound Biotech Partnership, consisting of diverse
10 stakeholders in the biology and medical sectors, convened in March 2016, and
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12 WHEREAS participants elected to capitalize on time-sensitive opportunities
13 to launch a biotech accelerator, targeted primarily at military health, for
14 entrepreneurs, researchers, and students, as follows: (1) the opportunity to
15 apply for i6 Challenge Grant funding in support of a Proof of Concept
16 Center (i.e., accelerator); and (2) the identification of a highly-suitable, independent
17 building in south downtown Tacoma, i.e., the former Nativity House, and
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19 WHEREAS the partners envision a three-pronged approach to
20 establishing the biotech accelerator: (1) the City would provide project support
21 by acquiring the former Nativity House and deferring rent for a defined period of
22 time (e.g., 2-3 years); (2) private parties and outside agencies would identify or
23 form an independent, non-profit entity to operate the program, serve as the City's
24 master tenant, conduct fundraising activities, pay all operating expenses of the
25 project and insure/indemnify the City, and, ultimately, purchase the building from
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the City; and (3) UWT would apply for and administer grants, such as the i6 Challenge grant, and develop a curriculum and intern certificate program to allow students to benefit from the project, and

WHEREAS working collaboratively with the UWT to obtain i6 Challenge Grant funding by committing matching funds is the necessary next step toward moving the biotech innovation/acceleration initiative forward; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to commit up to \$500,000, budgeted from UDAG Funds, as a local match to an i6 Challenge Grant for the purposes hereinabove enumerated.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney