



## RESOLUTION NO. 40710

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS, DEPUTY MAYOR BLOCKER, AND  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION expressing the Mayor and City Council's opposition to Pierce  
4 County Council Ordinance No. 2020-136s, which establishes a County  
5 Board of Health and Department of Public Health and terminates the  
6 Agreement Creating a Combined County-City Health Department Known as  
7 the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department ("TPCHD"); opposing the  
8 dissolution of the Agreement that creates and maintains the TPCHD; and  
9 inviting a cooperative discussion, after the current pandemic has passed, on  
10 whether dissolution of the current structure is in the best interests of the City  
11 and Pierce County residents.

12 WHEREAS, for nearly 50 years, the City of Tacoma and Pierce County  
13 have operated a combined County-City Health Department, known as the Tacoma-  
14 Pierce County Health Department ("TPCHD"), pursuant to Chapters 70.05, 70.08,  
15 and 70.12 of the Revised Code of Washington, and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to Pierce County Council ("PCC") proposed  
17 Ordinance No. 2020-136, introduced on December 1, 2020, and considered on  
18 initial reading by the PCC on the same date, the PCC desires to eliminate the  
19 TPCHD by terminating the interlocal agreement between the City and Pierce  
20 County, and

21 WHEREAS, under proposed PCC Ordinance No. 2020-136, Pierce County  
22 would also create a new Health Department as part of Pierce County government,  
23 dissolve the current public health board and install the County Council members to  
24 perform the function of the public health board, and

25 WHEREAS the PCC has since made some amendments to the ordinance,  
26 and it is currently pending before the PCC as Ordinance No. 2020-136s, and



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WHEREAS the PCC's intent remains the same, to terminate the current interlocal agreement between the City and the County for the TPCHD, and

WHEREAS the City of Tacoma was not consulted on the termination of the nearly 50-year agreement between the City and County, and none of the cities and towns in Pierce County, the TPCHD, nor the medical community were consulted as stakeholders on this matter, and

WHEREAS the proposal to eliminate the TPCHD, our community's independent authority on public health matters, during the time of global pandemic is drastic and disrupts and endangers public health by distracting TPCHD staff, the medical community, and the public from critical work, and,

WHEREAS the PCC proposal is already eroding public trust in public health during this pandemic, which will make people more resistant to following instructions or collaborating with contact tracing, resulting in fuller hospitals, medical personnel more at risk, and more lives lost, and

WHEREAS the expedited timeline by which the PCC is considering this legislation does not allow for meaningful input from the public and community stakeholders, and

WHEREAS the proposed ordinance does not contain any fiscal analysis, as required under Pierce County Code Section 1.28.075, so the impact to the City of Tacoma, which contributes over \$1 million dollars to the TPCHD's and the County's budget, cannot be fully contemplated under this proposal, and



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WHEREAS the current independent nature of the TPCHD is also relevant in a number of grants currently received by it, and this dollar amount is also currently unknown, and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council invite Pierce County to have a cooperative discussion with related partners about this topic to determine whether dissolving the current interlocal agreement is in the best interests of the City and Pierce County residents after the pandemic crisis has passed; Now, Therefore,

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

Section 1. That the City of Tacoma remains committed to the health of people throughout Pierce County, and invites the Pierce County Council to engage in meaningful dialogue to improve services at a later date.

Section 2. That the Mayor and City Council oppose Pierce County Council Ordinance No. 2020-136 that dissolves the interlocal agreement creating and maintaining the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department ("TPCHD"), and the City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Pierce County Council.



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Section 3. That the Mayor and City Council urge the Pierce County Council to reconsider the timeline for consideration of this legislation, thereby avoiding undue chaos and uncertainty for TPCHD staff and the community at large.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney