



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Nicole Emery, City Clerk, City Attorney's Office
COPY: City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing Athena Dunn to the Board of Commissioners of the Tacoma Housing Authority – Requested for June 10, 2025
DATE: May 23, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution appointing Athena Dunn to the Board of Commissioners of the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) to fill an unexpired term to expire on August 21, 2028.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards

BACKGROUND:

Under Tacoma City Charter Section 2.4, appointments may be made by a majority vote of the City Council from names presented in writing to the City Council by the Mayor. This position is set aside for a “directly assisted” customer and was vacated by Shennetta Smith prior to the end of her term. On May 23, 2025, Mayor Woodards nominated Athena Dunn for appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Tacoma Housing Authority in writing to City Clerk Nicole Emery.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The Tacoma Housing Authority led an internal review process to identify residents who are living on site and directly assisted, requirements for this position. Following their internal process, they provided a recommendation to the Mayor for consideration.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The directly assisted position is a vital one that brings lived experience to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. This appointment supported improved equity and accessibility by ensuring that those served by THA have a voice in the decisions made for the organization.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

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

This appointment supports increased board representation across the City's appointments and engaged new residents who may not have had board service previously.



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ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1.Do Not appoint	NA	THA will operate without full membership and an important directly assisted position viewpoint

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend appointment of Athena Dunn to the THA Board of Commissioners.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for adopting this appointment resolution.