



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126

Washington, DC 20005

March 25, 2023

5:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council conducted a special meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m., Saturday, March 25, 2023, at various locations in and around Simon and Company, Incorporated, Intergovernmental Relations and Federal Affairs, 1155 15th Street Northwest, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005. The meeting recessed from time to time based on revisions to the itinerary.

Present: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

REGULAR AGENDA

Meeting with various federal legislators or their staff to discuss the City of Tacoma's Federal Legislative Priorities as adopted by Amended Resolution No. 41083, and other matters pertaining to the City of Tacoma.

See the attached 2023 Legislative Agenda for additional information regarding discussions.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

5:00 p.m.
City Council Dinner
Carmines
425 7th Street Northwest

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council discussed the City's 2023 Federal Agenda, federal lobbying, concerns, and current events, including affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter; the behavioral health system and vulnerable populations; police transformation and public safety; a multimodal transportation system; climate action; the Downtown Tacoma main library; equitable fiscal structure; the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center; Cheney Stadium

improvements; and the South Tacoma fire station.

Sunday, March 26, 2023

7:45 a.m.

General Session

Association of Washington Cities Reception

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC Hotel

901 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Conference plenary session with speaking program.

Monday, March 27, 2023

8:30 a.m.

General Session

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC Hotel

901 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Conference plenary session with speaking program.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Federal Advocacy Training and Brief

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC Hotel

901 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council discussed the City's 2023 Federal Agenda, federal lobbying, concerns, and current events, including affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter; the behavioral health system and vulnerable populations; police transformation and public safety; a multimodal transportation system; climate action; the Downtown Tacoma main library; equitable fiscal structure; the Northwest ICE Processing Center; Cheney Stadium improvements; and the South Tacoma fire station.

Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland
1708 Longworth House Office Building

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker
and Mayor Woodards

The City Council discussed the City's community project funding program proposals submitted to Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland's office, the array of available resources through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that offer local leaders federal financial assistance to reach local infrastructure goals, and crime reduction and federal opportunities to support local efforts.

Congressman Derek Kilmer
1226 Longworth House Office Building

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker
and Mayor Woodards

The City Council discussed the City's community project funding program proposals submitted to Congressman Derek Kilmer's office, strategies to reduce homelessness and increase access to affordable housing, new dynamics in the 118th Congress, City transportation priorities, and concerns with oversight of the Northwest ICE Processing Center.

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker
and Mayor Woodards

This was a joint meeting with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Washington State mayors. The City Council discussed federal policies that impact local economic development centers; 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending program; and local priorities and concerns, including crime reduction, affordable housing availability, sustainability, and transportation infrastructure.

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building

Present: Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker
and Mayor Woodards

Absent: Daniels

The City Council discussed the City's congressionally directed spending proposals submitted to Senator Cantwell's office, economic development, concerns with oversight of the Northwest ICE Processing Center, Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge construction and cost, City strategies to increase access to affordable housing, Low Income Tax Credit expansion, and a new focus on workforce housing.

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On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk

TACOMA CITYWIDE 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

General Government State Legislative Priorities

Affordable Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Shelter: The City of Tacoma is working fervently to increase the availability of affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter space within the Tacoma community. We currently operate 1,140 shelter beds. By 2025-26, the City anticipates needing funding for an additional 425 shelter beds. The City has adopted an Affordable Housing Action Strategy, enacted a sales tax increase, sales tax credit, progressive land use code to increase density, worked with community partners to secure Housing Trust Fund and Rapid Acquisition Housing funds, and more. The City of Tacoma asks for the Legislature's continued partnership on the following requests:

- \$1.95 million to acquire and preserve a .48 acres property for affordable housing near 13th and Tacoma Avenue, near the Main Library, hospitals, and transit. Once acquired, the City would issue an RFP to identify a nonprofit housing provider to construct a mixed-use commercial property of between 200 and 250 units for individuals making 60-80% of the area median income.
- Ongoing funding for the partnership between WSDOT and the City of Tacoma to remove homeless encampments from right-of-way, place individuals within shelter, and undertake reclamation activities (including but not limited to abating graffiti).
- Increased state funding for programs supporting the acquisition, construction, and operation of shelters, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing, such as the Housing Trust Fund, rapid acquisition funding, and more. The City is currently operating 400 temporary shelter beds, with the goal of transitioning many of these slots to permanent supportive housing as it is constructed.
- A statewide policy to allow and incentivize middle housing types in a manner consistent with Tacoma's Home in Tacoma ordinance, such as pre-approved construction plans.
- Expand the multifamily property tax exemption to allow market-rate commercial and residential buildings to be converted into quality affordable housing units.
- Rental assistance and tenant protections to continue to keep individuals housed.
- Enhance homeownership opportunities among BIPOC communities through assistance to homebuyers, modifications to existing programs to support homeownership, and reductions in legal liability for condominium developers and clarity to condominium-ize duplexes and triplexes.
- Support for policies that provide opportunities for those on limited incomes to remain housed, including allowing senior residents to age in place.

Behavioral Health System & Vulnerable Populations: The City supports creating greater access to community-based behavioral health services to include substance use disorder treatment and dual diagnosis treatment facilities. This includes supporting build out of infrastructure, facilities and systems to support the new 988 system and associated crisis response. Additionally, the City supports funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable populations, including Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) and Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance Program.

The City also encourages the Legislature to advance policies and funding that support a behavioral health work force. This includes reducing the barriers posed by regulations/certifications on workforce entry into behavioral and medical health fields without improperly impacting quality of care, and investing in local workforce development systems to directly support upskilling and reskilling workers on behalf of behavioral healthcare providers.

Police Transformation & Public Safety: The City recognizes that alternative response programs are an integral component of fully meeting community and public safety needs. The City is committed to implementing alternative response programs and requests state support to help communities establish programs such as co-responder, diversion and other programs that provide options beyond law enforcement for responding to situations involving individuals suffering from behavioral health issues. The City also supports increased funding for community court, an alternative problem-solving court program designed to address the underlining challenges leading to criminal activity through access to services.

The City appreciates the work of the State to establish independent investigations of police use of force and asks that the Legislature continue efforts by establishing independent prosecutions for incidents involving fatal use-of-force and deaths occurring in police custody.

Additionally, the City supports legislative solutions to address illegal street racing, including the impound or forfeiture of vehicles used in illegal street racing. The City will monitor the Legislature's efforts to clarify and educate around policing policies, including when officers engage in vehicular pursuits. The City will monitor proposals related to the possession of controlled substances to ensure that dual needs of community safety and honoring substance abuse as a disorder requiring treatment.

Multimodal Transportation System: The City of Tacoma is dedicated to building out a local transportation network that supports all modes, is well maintained, and safe. As such, the City supports:

- Increased funding to maintain and preserve local roadways and trails. The City's street maintenance backlog for pavement alone is approximately four times its annual budget.
- Policies and investments that facilitate accessible transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Timely delivery of projects funded in the 2022 Move Ahead Washington transportation package, including the Puyallup Avenue Complete Streets Project, HOV lanes on I-5 from 38th to Joint Base Lewis McChord, the Tacoma to Puyallup Trail, and Schuster Parkway Promenade.

Additionally, the City requests funding for the following projects:

- **\$650,000** to complete phase two of an access revision report to improve access from I-5 into the Tacoma Mall subarea, envisioned to become an urban center for housing and mixed-use development.
- **\$4 million** to assist the City in applying to federal grant programs to complete Phase II of Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge replacement— a deteriorating bridge that provides access to the west side of the Port of Tacoma.

Climate Action: Tacoma has declared a climate emergency and adopted a local climate action plan. The City asks that the state continue to take bold steps to advance transformative climate policies and funding to decarbonize the economy, including but not limited to transitioning to zero emission medium- and heavy- duty vehicles, increased funding for transitioning homes and buildings to clean energy through heat pumps, and advancing local tree canopy policies. As the state leads the nation in making this transition, the City encourages the state to recognize that historically underrepresented,

underserved, and vulnerable communities that are expected to experience the first and worst impacts of climate change. The state should equitably uplift these communities by allocating state funding to ensure parity in accessing new technologies.

Downtown Tacoma Main Library: The City requests full funding to the Library Capital Improvement Program to allow the City to receive a \$2 million grant to renovate the Main Library in downtown Tacoma. Through the remodel, there will be space dedicated to in-person library services as well as four partner spaces for local non-profits to occupy. Co-locating with non-profits that offer programming and public services that are non-traditional but complementary to library spaces will increase traffic for all organizations. The total cost of the renovation is \$7 million.

Equitable Fiscal Structure: The City encourages the Legislature to reform the tax code and identify revenue sources that are fair, adequate, and stable to meet the needs of state and local government. As part of this work, local jurisdictions should be allowed the option to increase property tax levies with inflation, instead of the current 1% annual growth limit. The City asks for the state to increase revenue sharing with city governments to accomplish shared objectives.

Northwest ICE Processing Center: The City supports policies that limit transfers into the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) and any other proposals to further regulate the facility. The City also supports funding and policies to assist those within NWIPC, including providing funding to assist those within the facility to make calls to report sexual assaults.

Cheney Stadium Improvements: The City joins communities around the state to request \$24 million to improve baseball stadiums that also serve as community gathering locations. If this joint request were funded, Cheney Stadium would receive \$3 million to make improvements to the stadium. These improvements are needed to meet community needs and retain minor league baseball teams.

South Tacoma Fire Station: The City requests \$2 million to replace Fire Station #7, currently located on South 56th Street. The current fire station lacks the ability to support modern firefighting activities. \$2 million in state funds would be matched with \$2 million in city real estate excise tax revenues to fund property acquisition, final design, and begin construction of a new fire station to serve the South Tacoma community.

Collaboration with Community Partners

The City of Tacoma recognizes that a thriving community requires strong communication, collaboration, and innovation with our partners. The Tacoma Anchor Institutions Network is comprised of organizations rooted in Tacoma that have joined together to advance common goals to build community wealth, resilience, and improve opportunities for all. The collective priorities of the Anchors are aligned with the community-crafted Tacoma 2025 Strategic Plan. Place-based partners include:

- **Metro Parks Tacoma:** The City supports sending voters a constitutional amendment allowing for a simple majority vote for construction bonds and support of Metro Parks' participation in a multi-year pilot project that directs the state Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to explore the creation of a "parent" childcare license for organizations that operate multiple sites.

- **Tacoma Housing Authority:** The City supports ongoing operations funding for the Tacoma Housing Authority's Arlington Youth campus.
- **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department:** The City supports the public health system's 2024-25 biennium budget request to provide an additional \$50 million to help the system prepare for emerging diseases and the expansion of Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations work in the communities that have the highest rates of preventable hospitalizations.
- **Pierce Transit:** The City joins Pierce Transit in supporting new opportunities to enhance public safety and community well-being by elevating public transportation's role in the behavioral health continuum of care for the riding public.
- **Port of Tacoma:** The City supports the Port of Tacoma in advocacy efforts to streamline the awarding of Remedial Action Grants through the Department of Ecology.
- **Sound Transit:** The City supports Sound Transit's efforts to seek state funding to support the target delivery dates for the agency's projects and services.
- **South Sound Housing Affordability Partners:** The City of Tacoma is a member of South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP), a coalition of elected officials representing Pierce County, various South Sound cities, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The City supports SSHAP's efforts to create housing stability, increase affordable housing subsidies, and facilitate housing supply.
- **South Sound Military and Communities Partnership:** The South Sound Military and Communities Partnership (SSMCP) is a collaborative partnership of more than 50 members to issues impacting the communities surrounding Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). The City supports SSMCP's efforts to fund and improve the Defense Community Compatibility Account, secure state funding for a statewide economic impact analysis of the defense and military sector and construct improvements on I-5 from Mounts Road to Tumwater & Nisqually River Delta.
- **United Way:** The City welcomes additional funding from the state to bolster Tacoma's program in partnership with United Way for a guaranteed income pilot programs in Washington State.
- **Tacoma Public Schools: Fully Fund Special Education:** The City supports TPS in advocating for fully funding programs and personnel, including: special education and McKinney-Vento (homeless) liaisons/social workers, psychologists (mental health), nurses (IEP supports), technology staff, custodians, security personnel, transportation services and parent involvement coordinators.
- **Higher Education:** The City supports preserving funding for community and technical colleges, including Tacoma Community College and Bates Technical College. The City supports UW-Tacoma's capital funding request for \$7.7 million to acquire properties within its campus master plan to accommodate projected growth.
- **Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce:** The City supports the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce in supporting the protection of the Puget Sound Gateway Package,

timely delivery of transportation funds, and funding to complete the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge project.

- **Joint Municipal Action Committee:** Members of the Joint Municipal Action Committee (JMAC) continue efforts to align common community initiatives under three strategic themes: 1) Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI); 2) public health and safety; and 3) community wealth building. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, leveraging the collective impact of local purchasing, removing barriers to government contracts, connecting youth pipelines to careers, ending homelessness, and dismantling systems that perpetuate systemic racism. Leverage legislative opportunities to advance these priority issues with community partners in a collaborative, open manner that supports and respects our collective efforts to benefit our city and region.
- **Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County:** The City joins advocates and social service providers to support a request for \$131 million to protect and strengthen crime victims' services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, immigrant victims of crime and other vulnerable populations in our community.

Additional Support/Oppose/Monitor Issues for General Government

Environmental Stewardship

Culvert and Stormwater Funding: The City **supports** state investments in local culvert and stormwater projects to improve fish passage and water quality.

Extended Producer Responsibility: The City **supports** legislation that helps prevent waste and creates opportunities for reuse and recycling markets, including extended producer responsibility and product stewardship models.

Biosolids: The City's TAGRO "Tacoma Grow" products, a blend of pasteurized wastewater byproducts called biosolids, have been awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's highest rating for use in landscaping, vegetable gardens and indoor container gardens. The City **opposes** any legislation regulating biosolids that would impede the success of the best biosolids program in the country.

Asarco clean-up efforts: The City **supports** ongoing appropriation for the Department of Ecology's program to address legacy contamination from the Asarco smelter plume in Tacoma. Additionally, the City **supports** increased notification to homebuyers purchasing a property within the area impacted by the smelter plume.

Clean Buildings: The City **supports** policies and investments that reduce the carbon intensity of new and existing buildings, including expanding energy efficiency, green building standards, upgrades to public buildings, and other measures.

Wastewater Treatment Plants: The City **supports** funding to make improvements to its wastewater treatment plants and will engage on any legislative proposals impacting wastewater treatment plant operations, such as Ecology's nutrient general permit.

Community & Economic Development

Small Business Support: The City **supports** funding and policies that support small businesses, including subsidies and incubators to support disadvantaged businesses struggling with rising market-rate rents, and workforce challenges.

Economic Development Tools: The City **supports** expanded and new economic development tools, including expanding commercial office space development tools and other proposals.

Workforce Development: The City **supports** efforts to establish career pathways to jobs in the community, including identifying apprenticeship opportunities to support the public sector.

Workforce Development Boards: The City joins community partners to **support** a \$50 million allocation for a Workforce Impact Fund to empower local workforce development boards with flexible funding that brings solutions to job seekers and employers. This includes significantly expanding employer engagement, expanding investment in highly-skilled job ready individuals, intensifying focus on and outreach to priority at-risk and underserved populations, and expanding work-experience and earn-and-learn opportunities.

Occupational Licensing Improvements: The City **supports** the adoption of additional interstate licensure compacts and policy changes to expedite and ease the occupational licensing process for military spouses.

Green Economy and Growth: The City **supports** legislation that will develop green jobs including in urban forestry growth, renewable energy growth, natural storm water infrastructure, urban farming, and green technology development, making sure that these jobs are promoted within highly vulnerable communities.

Social Equity in the Cannabis Industry: The City **supports** legislation establishing greater equity within the cannabis industry, including providing technical and financial assistance to social equity applicants to reduce barriers to entry in the industry and help these new businesses thrive.

Transfer of Development Rights: The City **supports** state policies and funding that support and enhance transfer of development rights programs.

Public Works

Wheelchair Accessible Rideshare Opportunities: The City **supports** alternative funding sources be identified to restore revenues to support accessible rideshare solutions. When the Legislature adopted statewide regulation of transportation network companies, the per-ride fee that Tacoma imposed to fund accessible rideshare solutions was eliminated.

Vision Zero: The City **supports** policy proposals and funding that improve traffic safety and have shared goals with Vision Zero, including but not limited to supporting the Washington Traffic Safety Commission's proposal to establish a scholarship to provide low-income students with driver's education.

I-5 System Partnership: The City **supports** advancing the work of the I-5 System Partnership, and asks that I-5 crossings, especially pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, be prioritized as part of the

partnership. The City of Tacoma has allocated funding to establish crossings over I-5 and is seeking funding through the federal reconnecting communities' program.

Road Usage Charge: The City **supports** efforts to replace the fuel tax with a new revenue source, such as a road usage charge, to support the maintenance and operation of the state and local transportation network. In recognition that the transportation system is a state and local responsibility, funds from a new revenue source should be shared between state and local governments.

Right-of-Way Management: The City **opposes** legislation that infringes on the city's ability to manage and maintain the right-of-way, such as proposals mandating microtrenching and preempting local authority on the siting of small cell network facilities.

Transportation Grant Programs: The City **supports** ongoing and increased funding for transportation and freight mobility grant opportunities that have historically been offered through the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), WSDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program.

Public Safety/Criminal Justice

Basic Law Enforcement Academy Capacity: The City **supports** the Criminal Justice Training Commission's request for increased funding to offer additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) classes and establish regional offices to reduce barriers to training.

Curbing Theft of Catalytic Converters: The City **supports** measures that address the increasing trend in catalytic converter theft, such as making it more difficult to sell stolen catalytic converters for scrap.

Firearms: The City **supports** proposals that regulate firearms to curb gun violence.

Finance

State-shared Revenues: The City **supports** efforts to protect and enhance state-shared revenues, including but not limited to liquor taxes, marijuana taxes, and the criminal justice assistance account, including supporting efforts to increase the local share revenues collected by the Washington State from legal cannabis taxes, license fees, and penalties particularly legislation aimed at benefitting historically underfunded communities.

Local Tax and Licensing Authority: The City **opposes** legislative proposals that restrict the City's authority to impose a local business and occupation (B&O) tax and business license requirements. Additionally, the City supports legislation that clarifies that the city can collect B&O tax on royalties.

Retirement Investments: The City operates its own retirement program for city employees, as well as the city's LEOFF 1 retirement program, and will **oppose** any proposals that requires the City to cede these operations to the Washington State Investment Board, or that transfers reserves out of the programs.

Planning

Local Control: The City **supports** the state honoring local decision-making authority and the public process that supports local decision-making.

Growth Management Act (GMA) Reform: The City **supports** reforms to the GMA that further facilitate annexations, growth within urban centers, integrates planning for climate change, and provides

dedicated planning funding to local jurisdictions to implement any new policies or responsibilities. Additionally, the City encourages the state to consider policies that address the financial challenges limiting annexations, including the funding needed to upgrade infrastructure in newly annexed areas.

Systems Transformation

Equity and Empowerment: The City hopes to work together in partnership with the Legislature to advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. The City **supports** statewide policies that bolster gender and racial equity in hiring and contracting.

Washington Future Fund: The City **supports** programs and funding that close generational wealth gaps.

Election Reform: The City **supports** legislation that increases voter participation, including supporting the option for jurisdictions to choose whether local elections are conducted on odd or even years, and the option to choose whether to utilize ranked choice voting.

Neighborhood & Community Services

Housing Justice Act: The City **supports** legislation that would ban discrimination against renters based on a prior criminal record.

Homeless Encampments: The City will **monitor** any legislation to change or enforce policies addressing homeless encampments on public right-of-way.

Extreme Weather Protection: The City **supports** funding for cities to establish extreme weather protection for our most vulnerable populations.

Graffiti: The City **supports** policies and funding for graffiti and tag removal, including allowing artistic graffiti in permitted areas.

Tacoma Public Libraries

Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: Tacoma Public Libraries **opposes** legislation that restricts intellectual freedom.

Protecting Library Workers: Tacoma Public Libraries **supports** protecting library employees in the same manner as all public sector employees (RCW 9A.36.031).

General Government Federal Priorities

Together, We Will Change—Systems Transformation The City hopes to work together in partnership with federal policy makers to advance reforms that address the disparate impacts of systems and institutions on communities of color. As part of this, the City calls on Congress to advance transformation policies with regard to policing and the criminal justice system, economic security, immigration, housing, climate justice, and infrastructure to better support communities that historically have not been well-served by existing systems and policies.

Policing and Criminal Justice Systems Transformation

Tacoma is undertaking an effort to analyze our existing policies in the Police Department and we are working to implement new initiatives and policies at the local level. We support comprehensive police reform legislation at the federal level that aligns with our local and state efforts. The City also supports federal investment in new and innovative programs and funding streams to support local governments in establishing alternative response programs.

Economic Security

Guaranteed Income

Mayor Woodards joined Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI), a network of mayors who are studying or piloting guaranteed income (GI) projects in their communities. The City supports the priorities of this network and joins the Anchors Institutions Task Force in calling for the creation of a Fund for Anchor Institutions within a federal agency to rebuild in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic by targeting low-income and historically disadvantaged communities of color.

Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals

We also support the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, to establish a commission to study and recommend reparation proposals in a report to Congress and examine federal and state policies that contribute to white supremacy.

Civil Rights

Equality Act The City urges Congress to pass the Equality Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.

Human Dignity and Public Safety

Immigration Reform

The City urges Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform so that all residents may have an accessible path to citizenship and live without fear in the United States. The City shares concerns expressed by the Tacoma community for the health, safety, and welfare of detainees held in the Northwest ICE Processing Center, a privately owned and operated immigration detention facility. The City finds that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s current operations are dehumanizing and we implore the federal government to replace it with an anti-racist agency that will humanely and equitably implement immigration laws and eradicate human trafficking. To that end, we support legislation that would end the practice of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contracting with privately run detention facilities, similar to the Department of Justice's prohibition on contracting with private prisons. The City also supports legislative efforts such as the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act, which will ensure that all immigrants receive individualized and fair bond hearings by ending the use of mandatory detention of certain immigrants and requiring DHS to establish probable cause of removability in 48 hours. Likewise, the City also supports ending mandatory detention policies for immigrants in deportation proceedings, banning local law enforcement from aiding federal agents, and phasing out the practice of holding federal detainees in private detention centers and county jails.

Gun Violence The City applauds Congress on passing gun safety legislation in 2022 and supports further legislation and programs that contribute to community safety.

Combatting Hate Crimes In light of the recent surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans and other communities in Tacoma and across the country, the City calls for the creation of a Hate Crimes Commission. The City supports legislation that will create a bipartisan commission to investigate and

expand reporting on hate crimes throughout the United States. This commission would be comprised of a group of 12 members appointed by House and Senate leadership who would have one year to prepare a report on the rise in hate crimes, potential causes of increase, and how to combat it.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness The City requests an increase in federal housing funding programs, and legislation to assess prevalence of housing discrimination. The City also seeks flexibility in federal funding to be able to deploy those resources toward communities in Tacoma that need them the most so that we may effectively address housing disparities.

Telecommunications

Access to high-speed broadband service in every community is essential to our ability to provide quality education, create more jobs, and increase small business growth. Local governments are central players in ensuring broadband connection to homes and businesses is achieved. Tacoma calls on the Federal Communications Commission and Congress to preserve local government authority to manage their rights-of-way to ensure the siting of cell towers and small cells is safe and appropriate.

Protect Community Television Act The City joins the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors in supporting this legislation, which would reverse the FCC order allowing franchise fees and EG Fees to be calculated-as they have been for over 35 years- as monetary only fees. The City supports Cable Franchise and EG Fees to continue to support the Office of Strategy, Engagement, and Communications, which would be reduced per the 2019 FCC order.

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

TPU-WIDE FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- **Actively pursue available funding:** TPU will actively monitor federal and state funding opportunities and apply for funding consistent with current and emerging capital and operating needs.
- **Infrastructure financing tools:** TPU supports legislation that promotes the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds and will support proposals that revoke changes made in 2017 relating to advance refunding. TPU supports providing comparable tax incentives to consumer-owned utilities. TPU also supports restoring Build America Bond payments back to their originally enacted levels.
- **TPU supports programs to assist limited-income residents:** TPU supports policies and additional funding for programs that provide assistance to limited-income residents.
- **Support policies that address supply chain impacts:** TPU supports policies that adequately address supply chain issues that affect service to customers and utility operations.

Tacoma Power – Federal

- **Support proposals that maintain and improve BPA’s competitiveness:** TPU will continue to support federal proposals to maintain and improve BPA’s cost competitiveness.
- **Carbon reduction policies:** TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.
- **Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including electrolytic hydrogen.
- **Support equal treatment of hydropower:** Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.
- **Support legislation to maintain municipal utility control over poles and pole attachment rate setting:** TPU supports legislation that would ensure that municipally owned utilities maintain their historic authority to safely manage pole attachments on utility poles.

Tacoma Water – Federal

- **Support implementation of the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project:** Tacoma Water continues to support federal authorization, appropriations, and actions necessary to complete the Howard Hanson Dam – Additional Water Storage Project. Any federal action must respect federal/non-federal cost share agreements already in place. TPU believes Howard Hanson Dam fish passage and the Additional Water Storage Project are critical to salmon and orca recovery as a construction-ready project with broad impact.

- **Support funding of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA):** Tacoma Water supports appropriations to fully fund the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).
- **Support funding of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Tacoma Water supports adequate appropriations for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Tacoma Rail – Federal

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other infrastructure improvements.

TPU STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Tacoma Power -- State

- **Carbon reduction policies:** Washington lawmakers have indicated that they will continue to focus on legislative solutions aimed at decarbonizing Washington State’s economy. TPU will actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs to customers and that appropriately acknowledge and credit hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource and align with existing and emerging regional organized markets.
- **Building decarbonization policies:** TPU will support reasonable policies to decarbonize the state’s residential and commercial building sector, including proposals to provide state funding for limited-income customer fuel conversion and proposals for municipal electric utilities to adopt beneficial electrification plans. Any comprehensive building decarbonization policy must be based on sound cost/benefit analysis to understand the impacts on energy capacity and reliability.
- **Support investment in zero-emission transportation infrastructure and programs that advance the development of clean fuels:** TPU will support additional funding for zero-emission transportation infrastructure and policies that advance the development and production of clean fuels, including green electrolytic hydrogen.
- **Support equal treatment of hydropower:** Tacoma Power customers have invested in renewable, carbon-free hydroelectric generating facilities for decades. These facilities will continue to require significant reinvestment to ensure their future safe and reliable operation. TPU will continue to advocate for consistent tax treatment or

alternative approaches that support equal treatment of all renewable, carbon-free resources.

Tacoma Water – State

- **Support for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Water supports funding for maintaining and preserving critical water system infrastructure. This includes funding for the Public Works Trust Fund, state revolving loan funds, grant funding, and other state resources. Low-interest loans and grants are vital for the long-term protection of many public water systems.

Tacoma Rail – State

- **Explore opportunities for infrastructure funding:** Tacoma Rail intends to pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other infrastructure improvements.