



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL RESOLUTION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Ryan Mello and Assistant to the City Manager Anita Gallagher
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: Updates to City Policy on Place Names and Name Changes
DATE: July 16, 2019

ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

I ask for your support for the inclusion of a Resolution on the following policy item to be added to the earliest available City Council meeting agenda.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma has a policy in place that sets criteria and parameters around the naming of municipally owned property and streets. The scope of the policy includes buildings and structures, including overpasses, bridges and viaducts, Real Property, including open spaces and parks, and Rights-of-way, including under certain circumstances, streets. The policy was last updated in the 2010-2011 timeframe.

Since the policy was last updated, certain issues with the policy and its procedural process have been identified. Such issues include:

- The naming policy criteria are not well-aligned with current City policy priorities, including the concepts of equity, inclusion and reconciliation, although a growing number of requests are driven by these goals.
- The current policy limits the discretion of the City Council, and instead provides for the Landmarks Preservation Commission as the primary forum for the process, regardless of whether or not there is a historical component to the request or whether the name change request is sponsored or endorsed by the Mayor or councilmembers.
- The current policy is not well-suited for time sensitive or noncontroversial requests that already have the stated support of City Council.
- The section of the policy pertaining to the naming of property after individuals limits the practice to only those who have passed.

To improve the City's responsiveness to naming and renaming requests of municipally owned property, the City should undertake a review of the policy to address the issues identified above and implement improvements to reduce the bureaucracy involved in the process while also being very mindful of the staff time and other many costs to the city, private sector and other government agencies that applies at times for these efforts. I respectfully request a City Council Resolution directing the City Manager to review the City's Policy on Place Names and Name Changes and to bring forth recommendations for revisions to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee no later than Fall, 2019.

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following (Check all that apply):

Livability

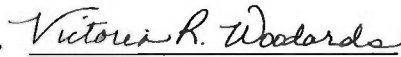
- Economy/Workforce
- Education
- Civic Engagement
- Equity and Accessibility

In you have a question related to the Council Resolution Request, please contact Anita Gallagher at 253.591.5133 or agallagher2@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
 Council Member

SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1.  POS # Mayor

2. _____ POS# _____