



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor Bucoda Warren
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Business License Fee Engagement at the Economic Development Committee
DATE: November 16, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A Resolution directing the City Manager to support the City Council’s Economic Development Committee to review and suggest recommendations of how the City can improve communications and better support local business.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Members Keith Blocker, Kristina Walker, and Kiara Daniels

BACKGROUND:

With the passage of Substitute Ordinance No. 28838 on November 1, 2022, Council indicated their intent to refer the ordinance to the City Council’s Economic Development Committee and ask that they work with stakeholders to make a recommendation to the full Council by September 30, 2023, regarding the business license fees for 2025, and applicable tiers, potential fees, and a process for adjustments to fees for years following 2025.

In addition to the guidance provided by Substitute Ordinance No. 28838, Council also indicated they would bring forward additional legislation that directs staff to work with the City Council’s Economic Development Committee to review and suggest recommendations on how the City can improve communications and better support local business. This proposed resolution would formalize that direction.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Under Council Member Blocker’s leadership and hearing from our business community and community stakeholders about their concerns, sponsors of Substitute Ordinance No. 28838 reworked the proposal to make sure that we are working together with businesses to support our whole community. This resolution would build on that work to continue partnership with the business community and to support our whole community.

Additional community engagement should also be part of the Economic Development Committee’s process in developing recommendations over the next year and further involve both business and community stakeholders. One method of engagement that should be included is a business climate survey sent to businesses in Tacoma. This can be done through existing Community and Economic Development staff and information systems like business license registrations, or GovDelivery for no additional cost. If the Economic Development Committee would like to pursue a professional consultant and/or a more in depth process, then there will be a cost associated with it. In either case the committee can work with staff and/or consultants to develop questions.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

This resolution would give the Economic Development Committee additional directive to review how the City can improve communications and better support local business, as well as how it uses its revenues to support necessary community services that also meet the particular needs of the business community.



Resolution 40622 affirms the City Council’s dedication and commitment to comprehensive and sustained transformation of all of the institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism. The committee’s should not only ensure support to our business community, but ensure we are prioritizing anti-racism in the evaluation of new policies and programs such as this so that this work can have an acute impact on our most marginalized communities.

Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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

Focusing on programs that support business and community will help improve our existing business development, and improve the overall perception of safety and strength of our economy that will attract new development and expansion of our current businesses.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not pass resolution	NA	Verbal commitment made to business community is not kept.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The City Council’s Economic Development Committee is to work with staff and stakeholders to make a recommendation to the full Council by September 30, 2023 based on their engagement with the business community and the business climate surveys. Following these recommendations the City Council will consider actions to implement.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsors recommend passage of this resolution to formalize the verbal commitment made during the passage of Substitute Ordinance No. 28838.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact to adopting this resolution, but depending on how involved the Economic Development Committee would like to be with the business climate surveys and engagement process, there may be a need for future funding that is not currently planned or budgeted.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

NA

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

This resolution will not have a fiscal impact and will align with existing staff and resources, although if the Economic Development Committee pursues a professional consultant for the business climate survey, there will need to be consideration of future funding.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

NO

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

NO

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO