



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Council Member Lillian Hunter and Council Assistant Claire Goodwin  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Addressing Speed Exhibitions  
**DATE:** March 11, 2021

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**As part of a regional effort to reduce unlawful street exhibitions, I ask for your support for an ordinance.**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

**Resolution/Ordinance Request:** The City of Tacoma has been participating in recent meetings convened by Pierce County Executive, Bruce Dammeier, to include regional jurisdictions' City Managers and Mayors to discuss policy options and taking a regional approach related to an increase in street racing and speed exhibitions. Tacoma's City Manager, Elizabeth Pauli, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and Council Member Lillian Hunter have been attending the meetings alongside representatives from: Fife, Puyallup, Sumner, Lakewood, University Place, Dupont, Bonney Lake, Gig Harbor, Edgewood, Orting, and Steilacoom.

The City of Tacoma currently has laws in place and enforcement tools that the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) uses to respond to street racing and street exhibitions, but the City does not have specific code provisions related directly to unlawful exhibitions of speed or unlawful race attendance. For example, the laws in place that TPD uses to address speed exhibitions include, "reckless endangerment," "failure to disperse," "obedience to police officers," and "interference with free use of streets prohibited."

As part of a regional effort to reduce unlawful street exhibitions and while the City awaits the findings of the Pierce County Force Investigations Team (PCFIT) regarding the incident involving a Tacoma Police Officer on January 23, 2021, I ask for your support for an ordinance that:

1. Addresses unlawful exhibitions of speed to include a clear definition of illegal speed exhibition activities, declares it as a violation, and applies the law across the entire City;
2. Directs the City Manager to ensure data is collected on enforcement of this ordinance in alignment with best practices currently under development as prescribed in Resolution 40685 (2020) in addition to the city of residence of all individuals receiving a citation; and
3. Requests a presentation to Study Session on the findings of the data collected, the effectiveness of the new ordinance, and any recommendations on strengthening the ordinance with a focus on racial equity six months after implementation within the Police Department.

Many of Tacoma's neighboring cities have adopted ordinances specific to street racing. Recently, the City of Fife adopted an emergency ordinance to include specific language that addresses exhibitions of speed, which adds activity such as burnouts, donuts, weaving, drifting, and leaving tire marks on the pavement, to the definition of unlawful race activity.

While we are awaiting the results of the PCFIT investigation into the January 23, 2021 events, passing an ordinance that addresses illegal exhibitions of speed makes it clear that these dangerous activities are not welcome in Tacoma. Having laws in place that address the specific activity we seek to deter will provide police officers the enforcement tools necessary to promote public safety related to unlawful speed exhibitions.

There is no fiscal impact of this proposal.

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: March 23, 2021

**ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:**

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity  
Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.

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

**If you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Claire Goodwin (Council Assistant) at (253) 219-0679 or [claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org).**

**SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Council Member Lillian Hunter**

**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS 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# 6

2.  POS# 2

3.  POS# 7



**Mayor's initials**