



**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager, City Manager's Office  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution – Authorizing use of \$100,000 from the City Council's Contingency Fund for the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department's operation of the Wood Stove Program and directing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the uses and deliverables of the funding – City Council Meeting August 25, 2015  
**DATE:** August 18, 2015

**SUMMARY:**

Resolution authorizing the use of City Council Contingency Funds for the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department's (TPCHD) operation of the Wood Stove Program, \$50,000 in 2015 and \$50,000 in 2016, for a total of \$100,000; and, directing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the TPCHD to outline the specific uses of the funds and the deliverables.

The funding would cover staffing costs associated with verifying income qualification for financial assistance, which is awarded to residents for the purchase of cleaner burning stoves, and outreach and education. Funds would also be available to focus on particular neighborhoods, such as the Lincoln and South End neighborhoods of Tacoma. Since the upcoming heating season is fast approaching, the 2015 money is requested to be released as soon as possible. In addition, the City of Tacoma would commit to promote and advertise the Wood Stove Program through the Media and Communications Office.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Council Members: Campbell, Mello and Woodards

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

This use of the City Council Contingency Funds best aligns with the City Council Strategic Priorities of:

- *Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents*
- *Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs*
- *Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment*

In addition, these programs support the Equity and Empowerment Initiative goals of:

- *Purposeful Community Outreach and Engagement*
- *Equitable services delivery to all residents and visitors*

**BACKGROUND:**

The Wood Stove Program, which is operated by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), in partnership with TPCHD, was developed to help residents within a targeted area of Pierce County, known as the Smoke Reduction Zone, replace their uncertified wood-burning devices with cleaner heating options through education, outreach and financial assistance. Emphasis is placed on connecting low-income households and other underserved populations with more



environmentally friendly stoves or other heating devices such as gas appliances or heat pumps. Currently, the program is on hold, having exhausted all previously awarded grant funding. PSCAA is expecting additional funding from the Department of Ecology to finance the next iteration of woodstove change outs, excluding Health Department staff costs, beginning in late September 2015.

The partnership began in 2007 and was, until this year, funded through a \$100,000 contract with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and an approximately \$100,000 match by the TPCHD. The Wood Stove Program was formed in response to the 2009 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finding that the Tacoma-Pierce County area was out of compliance with the Clean Air Act due to the severity of fine particle pollution—caused by older wood-burning devices.

While our Smoke Reduction Zone is officially back in compliance, a 10 year monitoring plan was put in place, which requires ongoing effort and continual removal of polluting devices. The Wood Stove Program is a critical component in adhering to the State's Implementation Plan.

In May 2015, the PSCAA indicated that they would reduce funding in Pierce County for the Smoke Reduction Zone which includes entirely defunding the partnership with TPCHD for the Wood Stove Program. The PSCAA, a regional organization comprised of Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton and King, Pierce, and Kitsap Counties, has spent almost \$10 million to help our local Smoke Reduction Zone comply with federal standards related to air quality. While they will contribute \$2.3 million in 2016 to support the local smoke reduction work, PSCAA is now shifting its focus and resources to address other priorities. However, given importance of the Wood Stove Program, and the necessity of continuing such programs in order to remain in compliance with the EPA, the TPCHD is seeking support from the City of Tacoma.

The Wood Stove Program's partnership between PSCAA and TPCHD costs approximately \$200,000 per year, which pays for staff and other administrative costs. If this resolution is adopted, the funding amounts and sources would be approximately as follows: In 2015, \$50,000 from the City of Tacoma; \$50,000 from the last portion of the PSCAA contract, and \$100,000 from the TPCHD. In 2016, it would be expected that \$50,000 would come from the City of Tacoma, \$50,000 from Pierce County, and \$100,000 from the TPCHD. Funding beyond 2016 will be reassessed at a later date and will depend on available funds.

**ISSUE:**

In order to authorize use of the City Council's Contingency Funds for this purpose, a resolution must be adopted. Currently, the Wood Stove Program is on hold, having exhausted all previously awarded grant funding. With the heating season approaching soon, funding is needed for the ongoing effort and continual removal of polluting devices

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could reject the use of the Contingency Funds for this purpose.





**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the City Council approve the use of the Contingency Funds based on the discussion at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Study Session about the community benefit of the Wood Stove Program.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 – Council Contingency	660000	5330100	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:**

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
<b>TOTAL</b>			

*This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.*

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$100,000**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** The City Council Contingency Fund has appropriation authority allowing for the expenditure of requested funds.

**IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.**

