



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager

FROM: Kim Bedier, Acting Director, Community and Economic Development Department
Debbie Bingham, Community and Economic Development Department

COPY: Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: Downtown Business Improvement Area

DATE: Feb. 2, 2018

SUMMARY:

On October 31, 2017 the City received a petition to renew and establish the Downtown Business Improvement Area. The petition received 76.1% support from downtown property owners, far above the majority required. On February 20, 2018 the Tacoma City Council will hold a public hearing in Council Chambers on the topic of reestablishing the downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) as authorized under RCW 35.87A, for a ten-year period, May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2028. This third renewal will include an expansion of services and an expansion of the boundary to better serve the growing 24/7 downtown community. The expanded 120-block district is generally described as being 6th Avenue south to S. 23rd Street and 'A' Street west to Fawcett Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

In 1988, upon presentation of a petition from downtown property owners representing 50 percent or more of the property assessments, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 24058, establishing the Business Improvement Area ("BIA") for a period of ten years. In 1998, pursuant to Ordinance No. 26205, the BIA was renewed for a ten-year period, and in 2008, pursuant to Ordinance No. 27696, the BIA was reestablished for an additional ten years, through 2018. The City collects the annual assessments and reimburses the BIA for program expenditures through an annual contract.

ISSUE:

The BIA manager will present a brief overview of the BIA, its history, the past year's statistics, results of the survey completed last year and the current status of the renewal. He will also explain the process by which the proposed expanded footprint was chosen and how the service levels will be changing.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.