



RESOLUTION NO. 41415

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR HINES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2 BUSHNELL AND RUMBAUGH

3 A RESOLUTION relating to littering; directing the City Manager to review options
4 for a public education campaign to reduce littering and increase participation
5 in litter cleanup programs, and to share options and a proposal as part of
6 the 2025-2026 biennium budget recommendation.

7 WHEREAS residents of the City frequently express concerns about litter, and
8 litter-related Tacoma FIRST 311 (“311”) requests on public property have been
9 escalating, with 20 percent of the top ten 311 requests in the past decade involving
10 garbage, debris, and illegal dumping, and

11 WHEREAS in 2023, the City removed more than 4.9 million pounds of litter,
12 illegal dumping, and garbage from public areas, and

13 WHEREAS littering increases public health, public safety, and environmental
14 concerns, but litter also often includes potentially dangerous items, such as glass,
15 human waste, or cigarettes, that can carry germs and diseases, create fire hazards,
16 harm people, and attract pests or rodents, and can also contribute to negative
17 perceptions of safety and well-being, and

18 WHEREAS the City’s proximity to the Puget Sound also creates concerns
19 regarding litter, given that littered items can pollute local waters and harm animals
20 and marine life, and

21 WHEREAS in summer 2023, the City engaged the community through an
22 online survey and in-person outreach to help identify how and where the City
23 should focus cleanup efforts as part of our Tidy-Up Tacoma program, with a strong
24
25
26



1 focus on ensuring that input from historically underrepresented communities were
2 prioritized in engagement results, and

3 WHEREAS community members' priorities were ranked as follows, from
4 most to least important: (1) litter and debris cleanup; (2) servicing public litter cans;
5 (3) graffiti removal; (4) trail maintenance; and (5) supporting community-based
6 cleanup organizations, and

7
8 WHEREAS this resolution directs the City Manager to consider additional
9 approaches to addressing the City's litter problem through public education and
10 increased civic participation, and to bring forward options for City Council
11 consideration in the 2025-2026 biennium budget discussions, and

12
13 WHEREAS the proposals should focus on pedestrian-heavy areas, such as
14 around parks, within neighborhood business districts, and along identified Safe
15 Routes to School, and

16
17 WHEREAS the proposals should also focus on inspiring City communities to
18 care for and take pride in their neighborhoods in order to reduce littering behavior
19 and increase the likelihood of participation in local beautification efforts in these
20 areas; Now, Therefore,

21
22
23
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Manager is hereby directed to review options for a public education campaign to reduce littering and increase participation in litter cleanup programs, and to share options and a proposal as part of the 2025-2026 biennium budget recommendation.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney