



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

**TO:** Mayor & City Council  
**FROM:** Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Melanie Harding  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Resolution: Naming Request for the 34<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street  
**DATE:** September 10, 2019

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**I am submitting a naming proposal for your consideration and requesting your support for a Resolution to be brought to the City Council on October 1, 2019 that would name the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street as the “Harold Moss Bridge.”**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT:**

In 2014, the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment framework which made equity a guiding principal across the organization and committed the City to changing practices which created or sustained inequities. On August 20, 2019, the City Council approved Resolution 40408 amending the City’s policy on place names and name changes. One of the primary recommendations for updating this policy was to align it with guiding City principals and include the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion when considering place names and name changes throughout the City. The policy amendment also provided the Mayor and City Council with the authority to make naming proposals.

Mayor Emeritus Harold G. Moss became the first African American member of the Tacoma City Council when he was first appointed to the Tacoma City Council on October 6, 1970. He was subsequently elected to a four-year terms in 1971, 1987, and 1991. Overall, he served more than a decade as a dedicated member of Tacoma’s City Council. On January 25, 1994, Harold Moss was appointed Mayor of the City of Tacoma, becoming the first African American Mayor to ever hold that post.

In his many years of tenure with the City of Tacoma, he served in a broad range of leadership roles, including the Association of Washington Cities Executive Board; the Law Enforcement Support Agency Board; the National League of Cities; the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners; the Public Safety Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health; the SR509 Executive Committee; the Puyallup Indian Settlement Implementation Assistance Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Emeritus Moss also made history in his lifetime of service by being the first African American member of the Pierce County Council.

In addition to the projects and legislation that he carried out in his elected leadership roles, Mayor Emeritus Moss made countless contributions to the community including helping to found the Tacoma Urban League and securing key funding for its Urban Services Center. He was also a founding member of the Black Collective, and his life of dedication to civic engagement through volunteer service has long reflected the key mission of that organization. In

all of his roles, he provided mentorship and support to a number of developing leaders across the region, and he continues to engage and inspire a living legacy of those dedicated to public service, civic engagement, and volunteering.

When asked about his many accomplishments as a City government leader, Mayor Emeritus Moss reflected that he was most proud of his role in lighting the 34<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

In congruence with the City’s naming policy as well as the Equity and Empowerment framework, I am proposing that the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street be named the “Harold Moss Bridge,” so that the lights on that bridge may stand as a shining monument to the numerous ways that Tacoma is brighter today due to the leadership and countless contributions of Mayor Emeritus Moss, and that others may be inspired to lives of service and civic engagement.

Additionally, I request that the full City Council consider a resolution confirming this name on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the date of Mayor Emeritus Moss’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, to be effective immediately upon passage.

A map of the area indicated and letters support are attached for your reference.

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: October 1, 2019

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

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following:

**Civic Engagement:**

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.


Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst at 253-591-5156 or [Melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:Melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org).

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Victoria R. Woodards  
Mayor

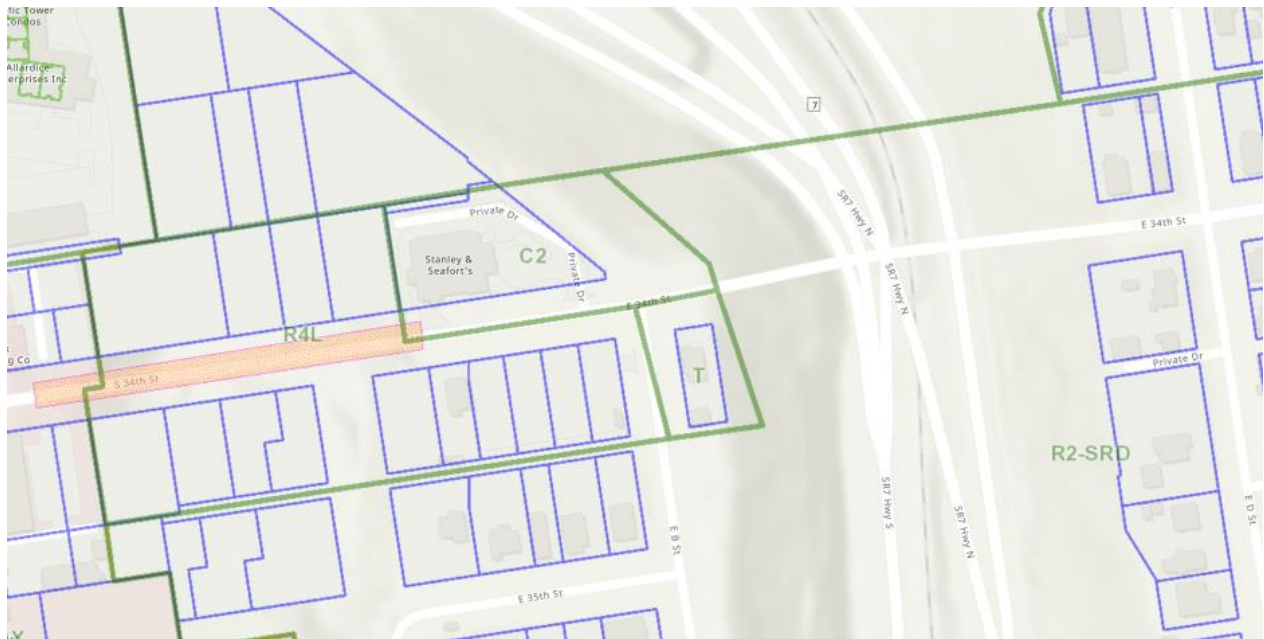
**SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

*(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# 3

2.  POS# 4

## ATTACHMENT A: Area Map



## ATTACHMENT B: Letters of Support

Letters of support are attached from to following:

- Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective Chairperson Lyle Quasim
- Tacoma Urban League CEO T'wina Nobles
- Tacoma Branch NAACP President Gregory Christopher
- Black Women's Caucus of Washington State President Susan E. Alexander
- A. Philip Randolph Institute Tacoma Chapter President Sherrilla BivensHenderson
- District 4 City Councilmember Catherine Ushka