



RESOLUTION NO. 39525

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS McCARTHY, THOMS, AND WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION authorizing the use of City Council Contingency Funds, in the
3 amount of up to \$5,000, for the placement of a plaque on the 11th Street
4 Murray Morgan Bridge commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the
5 1916 West Coast Longshore Strike in Tacoma and dedicated to the six
6 workers who lost their lives, including two local longshoremen.

7 WHEREAS, at the Study Session of August 16, 2016, Council
8 Member McCarthy shared a Council Consideration Request to use up to \$5,000 of
9 City Council Contingency Funds for the placement of a plaque on the 11th Street
10 Murray Morgan Bridge ("Bridge") which commemorates the 100th Anniversary of
11 the 1916 West Coast Longshore Strike in Tacoma, and is dedicated to two local
12 workers who gave up their lives in the fight for fair working conditions and coast-
13 wide unity, and

14 WHEREAS, on June 1, 1916, every Longshore Local from Bellingham to
15 San Diego agreed to strike together until they received a coast-wide contract, and,
16 altogether, 12,500 men, including 1,100 Tacomans, participated in the strike, and

17 WHEREAS employers brought in strikebreakers to load and unload ships,
18 and the longshoremen built a barricade of hay bales at the west end of the Bridge
19 to stop cargo from coming in or going out, and

20 WHEREAS the Bridge was the main conduit between downtown Tacoma
21 and the Port, and daily confrontations took place on or near the bridge, and

22 WHEREAS fights occurred in all 29 West Coast Ports, and for 197 days,
23 the longshoremen, supported by the entire Tacoma labor movement, defended
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the Bridge from strikebreakers and authorities, and were the only West Coast

1 Local that never surrendered, and

2 WHEREAS, during the strike, six workers lost their lives, including local
3 longshoremen James Costello, who was stabbed and killed by strikebreakers, and
4 Alexander "Scotty" Laidlaw, who was mortally wounded by a special deputy, and
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6 WHEREAS working people along the West Coast remember the events
7 that occurred in 1916 and the sacrifice made by the local longshoremen, which
8 made great progress towards securing fair working conditions, and
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10 WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less
11 than six members of the City Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund;

12 Now, Therefore,

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

14 That one-time funding in the amount of up to \$5,000, budgeted from the
15 City Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the placement of a plaque
16 on the 11th Street Murray Morgan Bridge commemorating the 100th Anniversary
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1 of the 1916 West Coast Longshore Strike in Tacoma and dedicated to the six
2 workers who lost their lives, including two local longshoremen.

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4 Adopted _____

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Mayor

7 Attest:
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9 City Clerk

10 Approved as to form:
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12 Deputy City Attorney

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