



RESOLUTION NO. 40618

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION requesting the Citizen Police Advisory Committee to review the
3 Tacoma Police Department draft body worn cameras policy; outline an
4 engagement process for public review and comment; and provide advisory
5 recommendations to the City Manager.

6 WHEREAS, on February 20, 2007, at the recommendation of the City's
7 Human Rights Commission and pursuant to Ordinance No. 27589, the City Council
8 adopted Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") 1.06.075.B.1, creating and clarifying the
9 role of a Citizen Review Panel, which is currently known as the Citizen Police
10 Advisory Committee ("CPAC"), and

11 WHEREAS CPAC is a policy-focused board whose role is to ensure
12 transparency and accountability in the way that the City of Tacoma Police
13 Department ("TPD") operates, and

14 WHEREAS CPAC's duties and responsibilities include reviewing police
15 policy at the request of the City Council or City Manager, and providing community
16 outreach and education through public hearings and committee efforts, and

17 WHEREAS high-profile cases in Tacoma and across the nation have raised
18 questions regarding the impacts of implicit bias and systemic racism in policing,
19 and lead to calls for increased transparency and communications from law
20 enforcement agencies and the government bodies that oversee them, and

21 WHEREAS the Equity and Empowerment framework, adopted by the City
22 Council in 2014, makes equity a consistent guiding principle across the entire
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organization and calls out specific goals to guide operational and policy decisions,
1 including a commitment to equity in policy-making, and

2 WHEREAS, in 2015, Project PEACE was generated in response to
3 community concerns about nationwide police-related conflicts to build trust,
4 relationships, and understanding between community members and law
5 enforcement officers in the Tacoma area, and

7 WHEREAS, through the work of Project Peace, more than 800 community
8 members, police officers, and City staff took part in six community-wide
9 conversations, resulting in a 2016 report which identified recommendations under
10 11 categories, including implementation of body worn cameras, and

12 WHEREAS RCW 42.56.240(14)-.240(160), related to body worn cameras
13 and personal privacy, was passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2016
14 and amended 2019, and TPD tested multiple brands of body worn cameras on a
15 number of criteria the same year, and

17 WHEREAS worldwide demonstrations on systemic racism and brutality in
18 policing renewed after the May 25, 2020, killing of George Floyd, a 46-year old
19 Black man, in Minneapolis Minnesota Police custody, and

20 WHEREAS, at the June 2, 2020, City Council meeting, Mayor Woodards
21 and members of the City Council expressed renewed desire for implementation of
22 body worn cameras, and

24 WHEREAS Manuel Ellis, a resident of Tacoma and an African-American
25 man, died in Tacoma Police custody on March 3, 2020, and on June 3, 2020, the
26 Tacoma News Tribune published Pierce County Medical Examiner findings ruling



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Mr. Ellis' death a homicide, indicating that Mr. Ellis died from a lack of oxygen due to physical restraint, raising further demands for body worn cameras, and

WHEREAS the City is committed to both long-term comprehensive reform of systems shaped by systemic racism, including City policing, as well as identifying and taking action on reforms that can be implemented more rapidly;

Now, Therefore,

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

That the City Council hereby requests the Citizen Police Advisory Committee to review the Tacoma Police Department draft body worn cameras policy; outline an engagement process for public review and comment; and provide advisory recommendations to the City Manager.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney