



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Keith Blocker and Council Policy Analyst Christina Caan
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Mitigating Impact of City’s Light Rail Investment for Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District Events – June 6, 2023**
DATE: May 22, 2023

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the City’s light rail investment for the Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request: The Hilltop Business District Association (HBDA) is working with a diverse group of stakeholders to hold the Hilltop Street Fair, a widely anticipated and signature community tradition since 2014. This year’s Hilltop Street Fair will take place on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 11:00am—7:00pm. However, physical changes to the event’s footprint are needed this year to accommodate the anticipated opening of the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension (HTLE) of the Sound Transit Tacoma Line.

The HBDA does not currently have the event planning capacity to plan the Hilltop Street Fair on a disrupted footprint while also minimizing disruptions on MLK Jr Way from 9th-14th and 10th and L Street to other adjacent Hilltop locations. This funding is meant to build that capacity. The HBDA needs an event planner with specific logistical, safety, and regulatory planning skills to ensure the City’s light rail investment does not unintentionally damage the ability of the Hilltop Street Fair to build and celebrate community.

This contingency fund request would provide a one-time investment of \$20,000 to hire an experienced event planner to work in partnership with the HBDA to adjust the event footprint while also leveraging community assets and promoting use of existing light rail to get to the event. This contingency fund request will also include monies for consultative services to the Stadium Business District for their growing Art and Wine Walk and/or other events that may be impacted by the HTLE rail lines. The impact to these events is likely to be less than the Hilltop Street Fair because Stadium Business District events will be held adjacent to the HTLE rail lines, therefore much of the funding will go toward the HBDA.

Contingency request funding will be used to:

- Advise on event logistics that maximizes community assets, while keeping off MLK and adhere to Sound Transit safety requirements
- Develop a traffic control plan approved by the Permit Office for 2023 and future events
- Create an event how-to manual (digital and hard copy) with tips on best practices such as timelines, so future event planners can replicate the work
- Manage permit process with local government and Sound Transit

- Assist in aligning the event with Sound Transit Grand Opening plans where possible
- Regular check in with community event leaders and assist in communications with the City and Sound Transit
- Load-in and day of event consulting support
- Consultative services to Stadium Business District for Art and Wine Walk/other events

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 30,000.00

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

The Hilltop Street Fair began in 2014, with 5,000 people attending. By 2019, the event had grown, and attendance rose to 25,000. Impacts from community safety measures put the event on hold for 2020 and 2021, and in 2022 when the event was reintroduced, attendance was estimated at 8,000-10,000. The Hilltop Business District Association is working with a diverse group of planning and community members to continue the tradition. Cultural collaboration is important to the event producers and in support of that, The Asia Pacific Cultural Center is a fiscally responsible partner for this event and has shown great support for producing this signature event.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The Hilltop Business District Association (HBDA) is an open organization of businesses, nonprofits, universities, healthcare organizations and hospitals that serve the people of the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma. The HBDA believes every person has the right to a safe and welcoming community that values diversity, equity, and inclusion. The HBDA also promotes an environment in which each community member, volunteer, advocate, and employee must have equal access to solving community problems and acting on opportunities. The HBDA values the visible and invisible qualities that make each person who they are and believes a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives make a stronger organization. The HBDA is also committed to engaging the community in ways that collectively promote unity and compassion.

The Hilltop Street Fair aims to foster genuine conditions for belonging. Activities included in the Hilltop Street Fair that advance equity and accessibility include:

- People’s Park will emphasize international food, culture, immigration and refugees with a global BBQ and offerings by Tacoma’s Sister Cities: Korean, Cuban, Chinese, Japanese and Italian recipes.
- Children’s activities and dynamic performances on stage by diverse global and local performers.
- Culturally relevant art exhibitions including dancers and costumed entertainers from Latin countries.
- Music stage at 11th and MLK called the 1111 Stage and will feature up and coming local bands from Tacoma and near communities.
- Showcase local artistic talent and organizations such as TUPAC, fashion shows and various bands including Hip Hop.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

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.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of diverse livable wage jobs.

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

This contingency fund will directly support the work of the HBDA and Stadium Business District to hold successful events that celebrate diversity and community in Tacoma without disruption from the City’s light rail investments. These types of events and festivals are also economic drivers for local communities, bringing residents and tourists to the Hilltop and Stadium Business Districts, who will patronize local businesses and support the local economy.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Provide less funding	Preserve some additional contingency funds for other Council priorities.	Support from an event planner to provide logistical, safety, and regulatory planning elements would be limited.
Do not provide funding	Preserve contingency funds for other Council priorities.	The Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events would need to find alternative funding to adjust event footprints, be moved to new locations, or be postponed.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

These contingency funds are provided to ensure the City’s light rail investment does not unintentionally damage the ability of events hosted by the HBDA and the Stadium Business District to build and celebrate community, including through the longstanding yearly Hilltop Street Fair. These contingency funds are intended as a one-time funding source. Event organizers will be provided with information on how to apply for future grants and event funding opportunities at the City of Tacoma during standard application cycles. Following the event, the event planner will share lessons learned and best practices for improving the event the following year.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend providing \$30,000.00 to support the Hilltop Street Fair and the Stadium Business District for their growing Art and Wine Walk and/or other events that may be impacted by the HTLE rail lines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$30,000.00 from Council Contingency Funds

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Christina Caan (Council Policy Analyst) at (253) 219-0679 or ccaan@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____  _____
Council Member Blocker

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. _____ *Sarah Punbauge* _____ POS# 2

2. _____ *Kristy Walker* _____ POS# 8

Mayor's initials Victor R. Woodard

(Mayor's initials for awareness only to ensure alignment and coordination of emergent policies.)

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024	\$	225,000.00
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Resolution 41151

Council requested - South Sound together	\$	12,000.00
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A Resolution authorizing 2023 membership in South Sound Together, in the amount of \$12,000.

Resolution 41150

Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship	\$	4,800.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

Resolution 41163

Council Requested - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023	\$	5,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit

Resolution 41162

Council Requested - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization's "One Bag Drive" to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.

Resolution 41161

Council Requested - Wheelstops	\$	12,500.00
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Contingency Fund of \$12,500 expenditure to install wheelstops along South D street, from S. 72nd to S. 74th on the east side of the street.

Resolution 41160

Council Requested - Khmer New Year Celebration	\$	10,000.00
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Council Member Bushnell provides the attached Council Action memorandum for a Resolution authorizing the use of \$10,000 of Council contingency funding to support the first annual Khmer New Year Celebration.

Resolution 41173

Council Requested - Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference	\$	20,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault conference for \$20,000.

Resolution 41181

Together We End Gun Violence Conference	\$	10,000.00
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A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Together We End Gun Violence Conference.

Study Session June 6, 2023

Mitigating Impact of City's Light Rail Investment	\$	20,000.00
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Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the City's light rail investment for the Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events.

To Study Session June 6, 2023

City of Tacoma 2023 Juneteenth Celebration	\$	2,500.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the City's 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.

To Study Session June, 6 2023

Summer Coding Workshop Series Sponsorship	\$	7,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab and hosted by Tacoma Public Libraries.

Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	113,800.00
Current Balance	\$	111,200.00