



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kim Bedier, Venues and Events Director
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of a Professional Soccer Stadium on Metro Parks Property Adjacent to Cheney Stadium
DATE: November 19, 2017

SUMMARY:

A Resolution relating to the possible development of a professional soccer only stadium on property owned by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma adjacent to the City-owned Cheney Stadium as proposed by a joint venture between the Tacoma Rainiers and Seattle Sounders FC; and expressing general support for such project, contingent upon further due diligence, and potential future agreements among the City, Metro Parks and the Rainiers/Sounders Joint Venture.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITIES:

The Resolution supports the following strategic policy priorities:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.

BACKGROUND:

Participation in soccer, particularly among children and youth, as well as its popularity more generally, has soared locally and nationally. If a professional soccer stadium were developed in Tacoma, soccer players and fans in South Puget Sound would enjoy more opportunities to access professional soccer matches and professional players which would foster the continued growth of the sport in our region. Such a facility could open for public recreational use when not in use for professional soccer.

The development of a professional soccer stadium in Tacoma on Metro Parks' property adjacent to Cheney Stadium could create a sports and entertainment nexus in Tacoma that would promote and support additional investment in the area. The Sounders/Rainiers Joint Venture propose that the Joint Venture, Metro Parks and the City work collaboratively to perform the necessary due diligence to determine the feasibility of developing a professional soccer stadium in Tacoma adjacent to Cheney Stadium, and the respective roles and responsibilities that each may undertake in such a project. The Metro Parks Board is scheduled to consider similar legislation on December 11.

ISSUE:

Is it in the interests of the City to participate in the necessary due diligence to determine the feasibility of developing a professional soccer stadium in Tacoma adjacent to Cheney Stadium.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose not to participate in the necessary due diligence to determine the feasibility of developing a professional soccer stadium in Tacoma adjacent to Cheney Stadium.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is recommended to adopt a resolution to express general support for the possible development of a professional soccer only stadium on property owned by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma adjacent to the City-owned Cheney Stadium as proposed by a joint venture between the



Tacoma Rainiers and Seattle Sounders FC, contingent upon further due diligence, and potential future agreements among the City, Metro Parks and the Rainiers/Sounders Joint Venture

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact from the proposed Resolution. Potential future agreements on the subject may have a fiscal impact yet to be determined.