



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Conor McCarthy
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Contingency Fund Support for our international partners in Mianyang and Fuzhou to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak**
DATE: 2/12/2020

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing a contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support Tacoma’s Sister Cities Council’s mobilization to raise funds for the response to the Covid-19 outbreak in China.
[Council Member Conor McCarthy]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Member Conor McCarthy

BACKGROUND:

This Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

While public health officials in Tacoma and across the United States continue to closely monitor this global health crisis, Tacoma has grown deep and connected relationships with Mianyang, our Friendship City, and Fuzhou, our Sister City. Officials from Mianyang and Fuzhou have reached out to the City of Tacoma and requested assistance. In China, the majority of medical supplies needed to prevent and control the contagion and treat infected patients have been supplied to key epidemic areas, such as the Hubei province. Other provinces are suffering from a shortage of all kinds of emergency resources, including prevention and control supplies. The City of Tacoma is being asked to support cities that we have deep cultural and economic ties to in acquiring needed medical supplies for their communities.

Tacoma’s Sister Cities Council has mobilized to provide local community members who wish to help those affected by the coronavirus outbreak in China with a secure way to contribute funds to this effort. These funds will provide needed medical resources and supplies to Tacoma’s international partners in Mianyang and Fuzhou, addressing the sudden and surging demands created by the emergence of Covid-19. A liaison in the People’s Republic of China’s Consulate General Office is coordinating timely shipping of the supplies.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The Tacoma Sister City Council is lead on this mobilization effort. The objectives of the Sister City Council are to enhance international communication, acquaint residents of Tacoma with cultural and political diversity of the world, and to encourage international trade and tourism development. The membership includes a diverse representation of Tacoma-Pierce County residents. The Tacoma Sister City Council is acting in direct response to requests received from the Fuzhou and Mianyang governments.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak of Covid-19 a global health emergency, an acknowledgement of the risk the virus poses to countries beyond its origin in China and of the need for a more coordinated international response to the outbreak. Historical accounts of influenza pandemics and contemporary reports on infectious diseases clearly demonstrate that poverty, inequality, and social determinants of health create



conditions for the transmission of infectious diseases, and existing health disparities or inequalities can further contribute to unequal burdens of morbidity and mortality. This action will provide vital resources to our partners to mitigate the impacts of this outbreak on our global community.

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

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

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

This is an opportunity to be responsive to our global neighbors in their time of need by sharing resources and support. Efforts to prevent and mitigate the spread of this outbreak reduce the likelihood that it reaches Tacoma. This improves health outcomes and reduces disparities in our City. Mianyang and Fuzhou are international partners of the City of Tacoma. Our cities have mutually benefited from a variety of cultural and educational exchanges. These relationships are economic drivers for the City of Tacoma and provide opportunities for global trade.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. The City of Tacoma could take no action.	Maintains contingency funds for other non-budgeted items that arise	Is unresponsive to the needs of our international partners
2. The City of Tacoma could choose not to contribute contingency funds, and instead focus on further outreach to the community and seek private donations.	Maintains contingency funds for other non-budgeted items that arise ; increases the likelihood individuals will choose to provide funds	No guarantee of further contributions, may still be unresponsive to the needs of our international partners
3. The city could donate \$5,000 from contingency funds	The City is responsive to the needs of our international partners	Funds would be unavailable for other budget items
3. The City of Tacoma could donate a larger amount	The City would have a larger impact in assisting our international partners.	Funds would be unavailable for other budget items

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

The Sister City’s Council should update Council on the total support provided to Mianyang and Fuzhou.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is to authorize a contingency fund expenditure of \$5,000 to support Tacoma’s Sister Cities Council’s mobilization to raise funds for the response to the Covid-19 outbreak in China. At the February 4, 2020 Study Session, this request for a resolution committing for the funding was discussed.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 Council Contingency Fund	660000	5310100	\$5,000.00
TOTAL			\$5,000.00

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 Council Contingency Fund	660000	6311010	\$5,000.00
TOTAL			\$5,000.00

What Funding is being used to support the expense? Council Contingency Fund

Are the expenditures and revenues budgeted in this biennium's current budget? YES

This is a one-time request for funding from the Council contingency funds.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation? No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact? No

Will the legislation change the city's FTE/personnel counts? No

ATTACHMENTS: None