



City of Tacoma
Community and Economic Development Department

Tacoma's Downtown Business Improvement Area

On Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at approximately 5:15 p.m., the Tacoma City Council will conduct a public hearing in the Council Chambers to consider reestablishing the Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) as authorized under RCW 35.87A, for a ten-year period, May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2028, as petitioned by a majority of the ratepayers. This will include reviewing the draft budget, program, and assessment rates for the first year of the renewed BIA (May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019).

The BIA was established in April 1988 and continued by resolutions for two more ten year periods in 1998 and 2008. The purpose of the BIA has been to provide additional security, maintenance and marketing services for Tacoma's primary commercial area. This third renewal will include an expansion of services and an expansion of the boundary to better serve the growing 24/7 downtown community and represent the core area of activity as the downtown becomes more vibrant. The expanded 120-block district is generally described as being 6th Avenue south to S. 23rd Street and 'A' Street west to Fawcett Avenue.

The mission of the BIA is to provide common services for property owners and to be an advocate for the general economic well-being of downtown property owners.

Petitioners have requested renewal of the BIA for another ten years through April 2028 for the purposes of providing enhanced security, maintaining and enhancing the appearance of common areas, providing professional management, planning and promotion, and similar programs and services. BIA services include:

- 24/7 Security (Private security patrols on bicycle, Support for Tacoma Police Department, coordination of downtown security officers, e-mail alert system for downtown property owners and managers),
- Maintenance (Blowing/sweeping sidewalks and other common areas, pressure washing sidewalks, installing street banners, removing graffiti, picking up and disposing of discarded trash),
- Marketing (Assist in changing perception of downtown by providing timely information for potential investors. Delivers marketing services via several venues, including a web site: www.tacomabia.org and regular print publications),

For additional information please contact Debbie Bingham, Program Development Specialist, Community and Economic Development Department, at 253-591-5117.