



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Sandesh Sadalge and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Senior Center transition support – November 19, 2024**
DATE: November 13, 2024

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$30,000 to support the transition of Tacoma’s Senior Center services from Lighthouse and Beacon Senior Centers to Metro Parks facilities.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

The City of Tacoma is working on a partnership agreement with Metro Parks to expand and enhance services for seniors aged 50 and older. This collaboration aims to leverage the resources and expertise of both organizations to provide a wider range of programs, activities, and resources for Tacoma’s growing senior population, while addressing the evolving needs of Tacoma as a whole.

- **Enhanced Programs and Activities:** Metro Parks brings a wealth of experience in senior services, offering a wider variety of programs and activities that cater to diverse interests and needs. This means more choices and opportunities for our seniors to stay active, engaged, and connected.
- **Expanded Reach:** By lowering the eligible age from 60 to 50, Metro Parks extends its services to a broader segment of the population, ensuring that more individuals can benefit from the support and resources they provide.
- **Increased Accessibility:** The City remains committed to providing transportation. And, with four more conveniently located community centers, Metro Parks offers greater accessibility for seniors, including those who prefer to utilize public transportation. This ensures that more seniors can participate in programs and activities without facing transportation barriers.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** This proposed transition exemplifies the City's commitment to forging strategic partnerships that maximize resources and expertise. By collaborating with Metro Parks, the City can ensure the delivery of high-quality senior services while utilizing resources to address other critical needs, such as homelessness, public safety and affordable housing.

Tacoma is a city that values its seniors. This proposed transition is not about abandoning our senior population but rather about embracing a new and improved approach to senior services. By partnering with Metro Parks, the City has chosen to invest in the wellbeing of its seniors, ensuring they have access to the resources and support they need to thrive in our vibrant community.

The Lighthouse and Beacon centers are anticipated to end senior services at the end of 2024 and contracted Metro Parks services has an anticipated start date of January 1, 2025. In recognition of feedback from senior community members about the transition timeline, this contingency fund request will extend services for Lighthouse Senior Center for an additional 30 days. During this extension, programming (SAIL classes, quilting, etc.) will have already transitioned to Metro Parks facilities and will not be offered at Lighthouse, but the space would be open for use during normal hours and people could come in and do puzzling, cards, socializing, etc. Lunch would continue. Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) will have staff on site for 30 days to support the extended transition. This will look like being present at Lighthouse from 10 AM – 2 PM each day in January to help seniors select a new location to attend and talk through various program offerings. Staff will also use this time to make phone calls to any seniors that have not indicated a preferred location or registered with Metro Parks.

This extension builds on existing outreach work to our senior center participants. In the month of December, City staff is planning to attend the Metro Parks tabling sessions and provide information on various offerings, how to get registered, transportation and sign-up participants to tour Metro Parks facilities.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 30,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: December 3, 2024

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

Participants in senior programming at the Lighthouse and Beacon senior centers have contacted Mayor and Council to share their apprehension about this transition in services. CM Sadalge, CM Rumbaugh, and Mayor Woodards have attended in-person outreach events at the senior centers to hear participants concerns firsthand.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

According to the 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 14.7% of Tacoma residents are 65 and older. In 2019, the City of Tacoma adopted an Age-Friendly City Action plan that acknowledged the 8 Domains of Livability framework used by many of the towns, cities, counties, and states enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. These included Community Health Services, Communication and Information, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Housing, Transportation, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, and Work and Civic Engagement.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

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

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

Investing in the transition between senior service providers will directly support the City's efforts to be an Age-friendly City. This resolution will provide additional time for City staff and community partners to connect with seniors who have participated in past programs and assist them in staying connected to City-funded programming at new locations. This will help prevent social isolation and the numerous health and safety concerns that comes with it, while also connecting seniors to other

key resources identified as valuable in our Age-friendly Action Plan.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Do not extend senior services at Lighthouse	Save Council resources for other priorities, clearly direct seniors seeking resources to new program	Shorter transition timeline than requested by seniors
2. Extend senior services for a longer set time at Lighthouse and/or Beacon	Provides more options for seniors at preferred locations.	Delays transferring to new, more expansive programs, contingency funding not available
3. Do not change senior service providers and locations	Current seniors utilizing current program who do not want to change locations could maintain services	Would be more costly while not expanding services to a larger population at more locations

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

After the 30-day extension is complete, the City Manager should provide an update to Council on staff's efforts to outreach to senior participants and connect them to the new Metro Parks programs.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend adopting this resolution and allocating \$30,000 in contingency funds to extend senior services at Lighthouse for 30 days to enhance the transition between existing and new senior services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

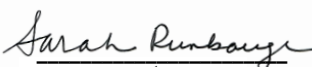
This resolution would allocate \$30,000 through Council contingency funds.

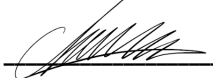
If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or Lynda.Foster@cityofTacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member Sadalge

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.  POS# 2

2.  POS# 5

Mayor's initials 

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

