



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Member Thoms and Council Assistant Lynda Foster
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney
SUBJECT: **Adding an application to the 2022 Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment process to consider increasing districts where electric fences are allowed**
DATE: November 17, 2021

I ask for your support for a Resolution to add an application to increase districts where electric fences are allowed to the 2022 Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment process for consideration and technical analysis.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

This resolution directs the City Manager to have staff and the Tacoma Planning Commission evaluate a code change to increase the number of districts where electric fences are allowed through the 2022 Land Use Regulatory Code Amendment process.

Throughout the City, businesses have raised concerns of increased theft and safety issues that have added severe expenses. The intention of this resolution is to propose code that would allow the use of electric fences as a secondary security method to protect assets like parking lots. The fencing would be installed on the inside of a traditional fence, and would work as a secondary deterrent for theft. Currently, electric fences are prohibited in all zoning districts except for industrial. Consideration of code changes should be limited to zoning in downtown, commercial, and mixed use districts. It does not include residential zoning. Sample language and development standards for consideration can be found in the attached document, "Model Electric Fence ordinance".

The proposal to change where electric fences will require a change to TMC 13.06.090.K.3, which requires review by the Tacoma Planning Commission. The project cycle of the 2022 Annual Amendment to the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and/or the Land Use Regulatory Code ("2022 amendment") runs from January 2021 through June 2022. The *One Tacoma Plan* is the blueprint for achieving the community's vision for future growth and the Land Use Regulatory Code (Title 13 of the Tacoma Municipal Code) is a key tool to implementing the goals and policies of the plan. These documents are reviewed and amended, generally, on an annual basis in accordance with the State Growth Management Act in order to maintain their effectiveness. The Planning Commission will make recommendations to the City Council for final review and approval in 2022.

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following:

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Select Index Score.

Increase the number of Tacoma households that have livable wage jobs within proximity to the city.

Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

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 Thoms

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# 6

2.  POS# 7

Mayor's initials 