



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services *PH*  
**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee; Michael P. Slevin III, P.E.;  
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**PRESENTER:** Reuben McKnight, Planning and Development Services; Brian Boudet, Planning and  
Development Services  
**SUBJECT:** Historic Preservation Program Introduction and Overview  
**DATE:** June 8, 2022

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Planning and Development Services staff will provide an overview of the historic districts within the City of Tacoma, including information about the process of creating historic districts at the local, state and national historic registers; the effects of listing of each type; a discussion of the relevant criteria and codes; and an update on the College Park Historic District proposal currently at Planning Commission.

**BACKGROUND:**

Tacoma has nine designated historic districts that are variously listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, the Washington State Heritage Register, and the National Register of Historic Places, including both dense core commercial areas and primarily residential neighborhoods. The social and development history of Tacoma is embodied in its neighborhoods, including some that originated as independent communities or towns linked to Tacoma by streetcar or rail.

Each type of historic register has its own review and adoption process, and each register has specific requirements that accompany the creation of a district. In Tacoma, locally designated historic districts are managed as overlay zones, and their creation requires review and approval of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council. The process for moving a proposal through each review body is complex and lengthy, and staff will discuss some of the past district initiatives, both successful and unsuccessful, as well as some observations about the existing review process. Lastly, staff will provide an update on the review process for the proposed local College Park Historic District Overlay Zone.

**ISSUE:**

This is a briefing to provide information regarding Tacoma's historic districts, including creation and management.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.