



# Puyallup Tribe of Indians



June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council  
From: Chairman Bill Sterud, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Re: City of Tacoma Place Names and Name Changes Policy

Dear Mayor Woodards and members of the Tacoma City Council,

I am writing today to offer support for the City of Tacoma's draft policy on "Place Names and Name Changes" which include allowances for signage in languages other than English on public infrastructure. As part of this policy update Puyallup Tribal staff have been working with your staff to thoughtfully incorporate feedback to support signage that promotes Twulshootseed language revitalization efforts. We acknowledge City staff worked closely with the Tribe ensure concerns were addressed in the application process for Twulshootseed naming efforts and that Tribal sovereignty was respected in the policy. This was a unique partnership that fostered trust and goodwill between our two governments and we hope to continue the strong partnership with the City in future efforts like these.

The Tribal Council is excited to work with the City on implementing a Twulshootseed language signage project of its own upon the completion of the policy framework set by the Tacoma City Council. Our Planning and Language Departments have identified opportunities around the Tribal community on the Eastside of Tacoma that could take advantage of telling our oral history through the everyday incorporation of this signage. The Tribal Council wholeheartedly supports normalizing Twulshootseed in public infrastructure projects through efforts like this and believes that the public with greatly benefit learning and speaking our language.

We look forward to working with you further to provide context of why this work is so important. Please let us know how we can continue to support this great effort.

Bill Sterud, Chairman  
Puyallup Tribal Council