



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

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker and Interim Council Policy Analyst
Raeshawna Ware

COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Kurtis Kingsolver, Deputy City Manager; Bill
Fosbre, City Attorney

SUBJECT: **Resolution – Raising Girls Care Package Initiative - March 14, 2023**

DATE: February 15, 2023

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization’s “One Bag Drive” to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

Council Contingency Fund Request:

Raising Girls addresses hygiene insecurity and period poverty by providing essential products to elementary, middle, and high students and young adults in the Puget Sound area. As a trusted community resource and a Tacoma non-profit, Raising Girls partners with schools and local organizations to distribute care bags to those in need. It believes that timely and reliable access to hygiene and period supplies is vital for the health and well-being of young people. Hand in hand with having access to essential hygiene products, Raising Girls aims to ensure that every youth they serve feels pride in who they are and understands the power they have to be unique individuals who can make a difference.

In 2022 alone, Raising Girls delivered 4,700 care bags, serviced 9 school districts, supported 74 schools, and had over 250 volunteers. As a Tacoma based non-profit, they fulfill requests for care bags of hygiene products for girls and boys across 34 Tacoma elementary, middle, & high schools including the School of the Arts and the Science and Math Institute with a focus on those that have the highest census of homeless and transitional students. They also distribute care bags through a number of Tacoma non-profits, community networks, and afterschool programs.

Care bags contain essential, full-sized hygiene items such as sanitary pads, tampons, body wash, lotion, combs, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, deodorant, hats, scarves, hairbrushes, nail polish, lip balm/gloss, socks, and more. The bags are customized to meet the needs of students who may or may not be menstruating. Each bag also includes a handwritten inspiration card from a caring adult, reinforcing their aim for each recipient to feel personal power and pride in themselves.

The funding would support the purchase of materials for 500 individual care bags that can be made available to youth in the City of Tacoma. By supporting the purchase of items for Raising Girls to distribute, it becomes possible to eliminate humiliation, promote pride and share love to thousands of youth in the community.

FUNDING REQUESTED:
\$ 10,000

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: March 14, 2023

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

Part of the City's Equity and Empowerment Framework is to lead with the principle of purposeful community outreach and engagement. This request helps to engage community in preparing the care bags and distributing them and advances the City's mission to work with community partners and businesses to promote equity and inclusion within Tacoma and throughout the region, producing measurable improvements and disparity reductions.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The City of Tacoma has a goal to improve outcomes for all communities in an effort to make it a place people want to live, work and play. Providing essential items by way of care packages to unserved and vulnerable populations helps to achieve equity of access to essential hygiene products and messages of adult care, advancing Tacoma's goal to be a city where everyone is able to reach their full potential.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

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

Supporting local non-profits in their service to all Tacomans reinforces our commitment to access so that all those who live, play and work in Tacoma can thrive no matter how they are currently situated. Additionally, care bags are assembled by community volunteers, providing a number of individuals in the community with educational opportunities to learn about hygiene insecurity and period poverty and share love and care with youth across our community.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City of Tacoma can decide to not participate, participate at another funding level, or participate as an active volunteer without distributing funds.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not participate	There is no positive impact.	The City of Tacoma will not support an initiative that targets underserved youth.
2. Participate at another funding level	The City of Tacoma could support a different number of care packages.	If there was a reduction in care bags, it would result in less youth being served.

3. Participate as a volunteer, without offering funds.	The City of Tacoma can elect to volunteer to distribute or compile packages and not spend any funds.	The City of Tacoma will not increase the materials available to increase the number of care packages created.
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EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Raising Girls will distribute care packages with a focus on Tacoma high schools with the highest census of homeless and transitional students. This is a one-time sponsorship and additional data or follow up could be sought if the Council was interested in engaging in additional support going forward.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:


The sponsors recommend approval of this resolution authorizing the council contingency fund request in the amount of \$10,000 for Raising Girls One Bag Drive.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Council Contingency funds are set aside for unanticipated expenses or investments that the Council would like to fund as an elected body. \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds will cover the cost for the creation of 500 care packages.


If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Melanie Harding at 253.777.8692 or Melanie.harding@CityofTacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:


Deputy Mayor Kristina Walker

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# 4

2.  POS# 7

Mayor's initials 

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

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024	\$	225,000.00
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Resolution 41151

Council Requested - South Sound Together	\$	12,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$12,000 to fund the City of Tacoma Membership / Sponsorship on the South Sound Together 2023 Board.

Resolution 41150

Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship	\$	4,800.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

To Council March 21, 2023

Council Requested - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023	\$	5,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit

To Study Session March 14, 2023

Council Requested - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative	\$	10,000.00
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Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization's "One Bag Drive" to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.

To Study Session March 14, 2023

Council Requested - Wheelstops	\$	12,500.00
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Contingency Fund of \$12,500 expenditure to install wheelstops along South D street, from S. 72nd to S. 74th on the east side of the street.

Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	44,300.00
Current Balance	\$	180,700.00