



RESOLUTION NO. 41497

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS

2 A RESOLUTION relating to proposed amendments to the City Charter;
3 consolidating and clarifying the recommendations of the City Council with
4 respect to certain proposed City Charter and Municipal Code amendments
5 not referred for placement on the ballot for the November 5, 2024, Special
6 Municipal Election.

7 WHEREAS on October 17, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution
8 No. 41282, creating a Charter Review Committee ("CRC"), consisting of 15
9 citizens (residents), to review the existing Charter of the City of Tacoma ("City
10 Charter") and make such recommendations to the City Council for City Charter
11 amendments as the committee may deem necessary and proper to improve the
12 manner of operation and efficiency in conducting the affairs of the City, and

13 WHEREAS on January 11, 2024, CRC members began to meet to review
14 the City Charter and develop recommendations, and

15 WHEREAS on May 6, 2024, the City Council received the final report from
16 the CRC and a presentation on their recommendations during a special meeting,
17 and

18 WHEREAS during 13 public meetings the City Council reviewed and
19 discussed the CRC recommendations together with proposed amendments to
20 the CRC recommendations and amendments proposed by individual Council
21 Members of the City Council, and

22 WHEREAS a public hearing was heard during the July 2, 2024, City Council
23 meeting to take public testimony regarding the proposed City Charter amendments
24 under consideration by the City Council, and
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WHEREAS the City Council has had several discussions over the last two months on which amendments could be addressed through other pathways other than a change to the City Charter, and

WHEREAS at the July 9, 2024, regular meeting of the City Council, the City Council by separate motions approved eight proposed City Charter amendments for further consideration by the City Council for placement on the ballot at a Special Municipal Election, and concurrently, by separate motions referred 10 proposed City Charter amendments and one additional potential Municipal Code amendment, for further study and evaluation, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to consolidate these motions within a single resolution and where necessary provide greater clarification regarding the scope and forum for study and evaluation of the 10 proposed City Charter amendments and potential Municipal Code amendment for future amendments to the City Charter or the Municipal Code, and

WHEREAS under the compressed timeline the City council was not able to fully address all of the City Charter recommendations that were considered, and by referring them to other processes, this will allow them to continue developing the recommendations and may lead to adoption of new recommendations in the future, and

WHEREAS many of the recommendations address specific discrimination language, accessibility to serve in public roles, and large programs or policies like the Neighborhood Councils or police accountability, and continued refinement of



1 these recommendations will better address the diverse needs of our community and
2 ensure that equity remains top of mind during the conversations; Now, Therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:
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5 Section 1. That the following proposed amendments to the Charter of the
6 City of Tacoma ("City Charter"), and the Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC"), as
7 recommended by the Charter Review Committee ("CRC") and City Council, in no
8 particular order of priority or importance, are referred for further study and
9 evaluation as set forth below:
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11 A. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 3 – Referendum. This
12 proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Government Performance
13 and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

14 B. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 5 – Charter Review. The
15 City Council finds that ensuring that community volunteers receive training and
16 education and are given the resources and time to complete a thorough review of
17 the City Charter will enhance support for decision making for future City Charter
18 reviews. Providing additional time will allow Charter Review Committee members
19 to engage fiscal and legal analysis to better understand the impacts of
20 implementation, and work more closely with the City Council to understand the
21 issues facing the City. The Charter Review Committee process can be
22 supplemented for this purpose through amendments to the Municipal Code and
23 will give the City Council the flexibility to align the process with the needs of the
24 community. Accordingly, this proposed City Charter amendment will be further
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1 studied and evaluated by the City Council through the Committee of the Whole
2 which will begin review of this issue in 2024.

3 C. CRC Proposed Amendment No. 6 – Neighborhood Council.

4 This proposed City Charter amendment was referred for further study and
5 evaluation as part of the five-year Neighborhood Council review currently in
6 progress through the Neighborhood and Community Services Department as
7 required by Tacoma Municipal Code Section 1.45.090 “Review and revision”.
8 This five-year review will bring recommended changes to the City Council for
9 consideration in 2024.
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12 D. CRC Proposed Amendment No. 8 – Policing Accountability. The City

13 Council understands the critical importance and intense public interest in police
14 accountability and the public's demand for transparency and justice and is
15 committed to taking action to bring sustainable oversight practices to Tacoma. The
16 City Council believes that addressing this complex issue requires more ongoing,
17 meaningful dialogue and collaboration with the Community’s Police Advisory
18 Committee (“CPAC”), who have been doing vital work on this topic and must be
19 included in the solutions moving forward. Changes may need to be bargained
20 when required by state law and taking the time to work together through good faith
21 negotiations and having difficult conversations with CPAC and Tacoma Police
22 Union, Local 6, I.U.P.A. (“Local 6”) will allow for sustainable accountability. The
23 City Council is committed to bringing forward a bargainable and sustainable
24 policing accountability solution with Local 6 before the end of 2025. Toward that
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1 end, the issue of policing accountability has been referred to an alternative process
2 for additional study and evaluation by the City Council through their liaison to the
3 CPAC in partnership with the committee.

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5 E. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 9B – Climate Commission.

6 This proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Infrastructure,
7 Planning, and Sustainability Committee (“IPS Committee”) for additional study
8 and evaluation. The Council shares the Charter Review Commission’s view that
9 “the city needs to effectively track and hold accountable its commitments to
10 sustainability and climate goals.” The IPS Committee is asked to:

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12 a) review how a Climate Commission, or otherwise named, might enhance
13 or replace the work of the existing Sustainable Tacoma Commission, and how
14 that commission might be made up;

15 b) review establishing a carbon budget, as set forth in the Climate Action
16 Plan and recommended by the Charter Review Commission; and

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18 c) review other ways to empower and accelerate the goals of the Climate
19 Action Plan, including possible code changes, to reach the City’s goal of net zero
20 emissions by 2050.

21 F. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 11 – Landmarks

22 Preservation Commission. This proposed City Charter amendment was referred
23 to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee for additional study
24 and evaluation.
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G. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 19 – Ranked-Choice Voting. This proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

H. CRC Proposed Charter Amendment No. 20 – Campaign Finance. This proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

I. Council Proposed Charter Amendment C3B – TPU Board Member Stipends. This proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation.

J. Council Proposed Charter Amendment C5 – Initiative Fiscal Notes. This proposed City Charter amendment was referred to the Government Performance and Finance Committee for additional study and evaluation. Additional study will evaluate how fiscal notes could be developed for initiatives brought forward by the community on a ballot. This work of the Government Performance and Finance Committee will explore a requirement that the City create a process to develop a cost assessment of the initiative language and its impact to the city. This information would then be available to the community through the City's web page.

Section 2. That the City Council at the July 9, 2024, meeting approved a motion directing the City Manager to include the study and evaluation of inclusion



1 of caste discrimination in the Tacoma Municipal Code. This item was an ancillary
2 consideration by the Charter Review Committee and a new item that was not
3 included in the recommendations reviewed by the City Council prior to the July 9,
4 2024, meeting. This issue is referred to the Community Vitality and Safety
5 Committee for further study and evaluation.
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7 Adopted _____
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10 Mayor

11 Attest:
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13 City Clerk

14 Approved as to form:
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16 City Attorney
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