RESOLUTION NO. 41956

A RESOLUTION calling for a special election on November 3, 2026, providing for transmittal to the Pierce County Auditor as *ex officio* supervisor of elections of Safe Homes for All Initiative Measure No. 1 for placement on the November 3, 2026, Special Election ballot concurrent with the General Election, and directing the City Clerk to transmit to the Pierce County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution.

WHEREAS the power of initiative and referendum for local ballot measures derives from state law (Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") 35.22.200) which authorizes first class cities to provide for direct legislation by the people in the Tacoma City Charter ("Charter"), and

WHEREAS Section 2.19 of the Charter establishes the process for submittal of initiative petitions and provides that residents of the City may "by initiative petition ask the voters to approve or reject ordinances or amendments to existing ordinances", and

WHEREAS a petition for Safe Homes for All Initiative Measure No. 1 ("Initiative") relating to tenant safety and protection laws was filed by petitioner Tyron Moore ("Petitioner") with the City Clerk on February 10, 2026,[1] and

WHEREAS after consultation with Petitioner, the City Attorney approved the petition for the Initiative as to form and style,[2] prepared and approved the ballot title and transmitted the same to the City Clerk on February 25, 2026, and

[1] Petitioner also filed a second petition and measure (No. 1) on that same date and two more petitions and measures (Measures No. 3 and 4) on February 12. Measures No. 2, 3 and 4 were approved as to form and style by the City Attorney for gathering signatures but were not submitted by petitioner to the City Clerk for verification of signatures.

[2] *See* RCW 35.21.005 (Sufficiency of petitions).

on February 26, 2026, the City Clerk transmitted notice to the Petitioner that the ten-day appeal period commenced, and

WHEREAS the Petitioner on June 16, 2026, filed with the City Clerk the signed petitions for the Initiative for verification of signatures by the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, and validation by the City Clerk, and

WHEREAS on June 18, 2026, the City Clerk forwarded the signed petitions for the Initiative to the Pierce County Auditor's Office for verification of signatures, and

WHEREAS on June 24, 2026, the Pierce County Auditor provided notice to the City Clerk that the threshold number of signatures to place the Initiative on the ballot was 4,989 and that the petitions submitted contained 5,998 valid signatures meeting the requirements under the Charter to place the Initiative on the ballot, and

WHEREAS on June 25, 2026, in accordance with Section 2.19 (i) & (j) of the Charter, the City Clerk validated that the signatures for the Initiative petition met the requirements under the Charter and provided notice of validation to the City Council, and

WHEREAS Section 2.19 of the Charter provides that once the City Clerk has validated an initiative petition, the City Council may enact or reject the initiative, and that if the City Council rejects the initiative or fails to take action within thirty days following validation, the City Council shall submit the proposal

without any amendments to the people at the next municipal or general election that is not less than ninety days after the date of validation of the petition, and

WHEREAS Section 2.22 of the Charter also provides that the City Council may by its own motion submit any proposed ordinance to the voters for approval or rejection, which ordinance may, when dealing with the same subject matter as a voter initiative, be proposed as an alternative to the initiative petition,[3] and

WHEREAS the thirty-day period granted to the City Council under Section 2.19(j) of the Charter to consider whether to enact or reject the proposed measure, or place an alternative on the ballot, commenced on June 25, 2026, and will end on Saturday July 25, 2026, and

WHEREAS the City Council calls for a special election on November 3, 2026, concurrent with the General Election, and submits the proposed Initiative to the voters for their approval or rejection; Now, Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Pierce County, Washington is hereby requested to call for a special election to be held concurrent with the General Election on November 3, 2026, for the electorate of the City to consider whether to approve or reject Safe Homes for All Initiative Measure No. 1 ("Initiative").

Section 2. That the City hereby transmits to the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Pierce County, Washington, the Initiative

[3] See, RCW 29A.36.071.

relating to tenant safety and protection laws, for placement on the Special Election ballot to be held concurrent with the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Section 3. The City shall submit to the electorate of the City the Initiative in the form substantially as follows:

BALLOT TITLE

CITY OF TACOMA

SAFE HOMES FOR ALL INITIATIVE MEASURE NO. 1

Initiative Measure No. 1 concerns tenant safety and protection laws.

This measure would improve compliance with tenant safety and protection laws through: landlord education and training, recognizing tenants' right to organize, requiring landlords to bargain in good faith with tenant unions, establishing a public landlord information database, providing for City and private enforcement of tenant safety and protection laws, imposition of penalties and cost recovery, requiring landlord rental licensing and fees, authorizing revocation of landlord business licenses, prohibiting retaliation, and establishing certain exemptions.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes . . . . . ☐

No . . . . . ☐

Section 4. That the City Clerk shall send to the Pierce County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections, a certified copy of this resolution, together with the Initiative, for the November 3, 2026, Special Election concurrent with the General Election. The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the Tacoma Municipal Code should be amended as provided in the Initiative, to

the electors at the November 3, 2026, Special Election concurrent with the General Election.

Section 5. That the City has chosen to participate jointly with Pierce County in its voters' pamphlet. Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") 29A.32.220, the text for the ballot measure, accompanied by an explanatory statement, shall be submitted to the Pierce County Auditor's Office for inclusion in the Official Voters' Pamphlet. The explanatory statement shall not exceed 200 words and shall be submitted to the Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections.

Section 6. That if a section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction; such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Adopted _____

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
City Attorney