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

TO:	Mayor & City Council
FROM:	Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh and Senior Council Policy Analyst Lynda Foster
COPIES TO:	Hyun Kim, City Manager; Allyson Griffith, Deputy City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT:	**Resolution – Grit City Gala Sponsorship– July 21, 2026**
DATE:	July 15, 2026

I ask for your support for a Council Contingency Fund expenditure of $7,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Farmer's Market Grit City Gala.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:
The Grit City Gala supports the work of many who participate in the Broadway Farmers Market each year. From the chef cooking the meal, to the different vendors who volunteer their time, this event allows small entrepreneurs, many of whom are underrepresented in our business community, a place to shine their talent and showcase what they do best. The support of the Grit City Gala aligns with our 2025 Strategic Goals through placemaking and cultivates Tacoma's unique identity and cultural diversity by enhancing public spaces, community experiences, and neighborhood character, fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride.

The Tacoma Farmers Market Grit City Gala will occur on Thursday, August 20. This sponsorship supports the Tacoma Farmer's Markets mission to create vibrant marketplaces where local farms, artisans, small businesses, and organizations connect directly with the community. The City will receive the following benefits from sponsorship:

- 10 x 10 booth at the Broadway Tacoma Farmers Market for 6 dates in 2026 or 2027
- The City logo listed on the Grit City Gala event signage & event website
- The City logo linked on the Tacoma Farmer's Market Website through 2026
- Personalized post on Facebook & Instagram

In the 2025-2026 biennium budget, Community and Economic Development budgeted $6,750 per year for small business incubation and diverse outreach. In 2025 that was allocated to the Tacoma Farmers Market, the 2026 funds have not yet been distributed.

Also in the 2025-2026 biennium, the Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability supports senior food access to the Tacoma Farmers Market for $10,000 annually.

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: August 4, 2026

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):
The sponsorship was requested by the Tacoma Farmers Market. This sponsorship opportunity provides the City opportunities to connect with downtown residents, guests, and businesses.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The support of the Grit City Gala supports the work of many who participate in the Broadway Farmers Market each year. From the chef cooking the meal, to the different vendors who volunteer their time, this event allows small entrepreneurs, many who are underrepresented in our business community, a place to shine their talent and showcase what they do best. The support of the Grit City Gala aligns with our 2025 Strategic Goals through Placemaking and Cultivates Tacoma's unique identity and cultural diversity by enhancing public spaces, community experiences, and neighborhood character, fostering a sense of belonging and civic pride.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity

Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Livability: *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of Complete Compact Communities/ 20-Minute Neighborhoods throughout the city.
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

Our sponsorship will support this event so that the proceeds from sales of tickets can help fund the cost of running the Broadway Farmers Market during the year. This sponsorship provides the City the opportunity to support a local event that will grow more entrepreneurial businesses. This is a positive for those who run small businesses that don't always have a brick and mortar space.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. Sponsor at a higher or lower level	There are other sponsorship levels that could fit Council priorities	There are other sponsorship levels that could fit Council priorities
2. Fund farmers market access in low equity areas and/or identified food deserts	Target investment in areas with the most food needs and increase connections with under-resourced neighborhoods	May not support existing resources currently doing good work in community or provide the benefit of connecting with an active community

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

The City of Tacoma will sponsor the Grit City Gala for $7,000. This is one-time funding from the Council Contingency fund, with the understanding any future funding requests should go through the City's competitive funding processes.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend approving this resolution and sponsoring the Grit City Gala.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The resolution will allocate $7,000 from Council Contingency Funds.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Lynda Foster at 253.591.5166 or lfoster@Tacoma.gov.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____
Council Member Rumbaugh

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#___7_____**

2. _____ **POS#____8_____**

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

Contingency Commitments 2026

Resolution Number	Funding Amount
Resolution 41859	
Oasis Center	**$30,000.00**
Council Contingency Fund request of $30,000 to fund the Oasis Youth Center's HIV and STI self-testing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 14 and older in Pierce County.	
Resolution 41864	
True Vine Community Church of God in Christ	**$25,000.00**
Council Contingency Fund request of $25,000 to sponsor the 5th Annual Citywide Block Party.	
Resolution 41881	
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 2026 Gala Sponsorship	**$15,000.00**
A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of $15,000 to sponsor the Northwest Immigration Rights Project's 2026 Gala and make a public declaration of solidarity with Northwest Immigrant Rights Project's values	
Resolution 41904	
Tacoma Film Task Force Sponsorship	**$10,000.00**
Council Contingency fund expenditure of $10,000 to sponsor the Tacoma Film Task Force.	
Resolution 41932	
Ride Transit Month Sponsorship	**$10,000.00**
Resolution authorizing the one-time use of Council Contingency Funds, in the amount of $10,000, to sponsor Downtown on the Go's Ride Transit Month.	
Resolution 41933	
NextGen GM Sports Executive Internship	**$20,000.00**
A Council Contingency fund expenditure of $20,000 to sponsor the "NextGen GM Sports Executive Internship" pilot program.	
Resolution 41940	
Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast Sponsorship	**$1,000.00**
A one-time Council Contingency fund expenditure of $1,000 to sponsor the Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast	
Resolution 41957	
Savor Fest PNW	**$16,000**
A resolution allocating $16,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the 2026 Savor Fest PNW	
Resolution 41959	
Beyond the Block	**$10,000.00**
A resolution allocating $10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Beyond the Block program.	
Going to Council on August 4, 2026	
Grit City Gala	**$7,000.00**
A resolution allocating $7,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Tacoma Farmer's Market Grit City Gala	
Going to Council on August 4, 2026	
Wayfinding Signs to Eastside Community Center	**$1,225.00**
A resolution allocating $1,225 in Council Contingency Funds to support the production and installation of up to three wayfinding signs for the Eastside Community Center	
Going to Council on August 4, 2026	
Food Access	**$15,000.00**
A resolution allocating $15,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support St. Leo Food Connection's pilot partnership with the Tacoma Public Library.	
Starting Balance	**$259,328.56**
Allocated Funding	**$160,225.00**
Remaining Balance	***$99,103.56***