



**TO:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager, City Manager's Office  
**COPY:** City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** **Resolution – Authorizing the use of \$30,000 of Council Contingency Funds to secure the services of a facilitator for the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force – May 12, 2015**  
**DATE:** May 6, 2015

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**SUMMARY:**

A resolution authorizing the use of \$30,000 of Council Contingency Funds to secure the services of a facilitator for the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force.

**COUNCIL SPONSORS:**

Mayor Strickland

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

The requested resolution aligns with the City Council's Strategic Policy Priority to *Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.*

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 4, 2015, Mayor Strickland received a letter from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber requesting the Mayor convene a group capable of developing an alternative to the \$15 an hour Minimum Wage Initiative Petition that all of Tacoma's voters could get behind. The Chamber acknowledged the need to address the minimum wage issue here in Tacoma; however, they believed the 15 Now proposed Initiative Petition is too extreme because it creates the highest minimum wage in the state and nation. Although Seattle has adopted a higher minimum wage, their economy is stronger than the Tacoma economy and the cost of living is much higher. Yet, even in Seattle, where the median household income is 30% higher than in Tacoma, the Seattle City Council opted to increase its minimum wage in phases over seven years. Currently, the \$11 an hour minimum wage rate effective in Seattle on January 1, 2016, is \$4 an hour less than what is being proposed in Tacoma.

During the May 5, 2015 Study Session, the Mayor discussed the Chamber's request for the City to create a group to convene and discuss alternatives. At the May 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, the Council approved Resolution No. 39187, which created a 13-member task force to be named the Tacoma Minimum Wage Task Force for the purpose of reviewing minimum wage alternatives in Tacoma. The Task Force will consist of one member nominated by each Council Member and four members nominated from various business or citizen groups and selected by the Mayor. The Task Force shall complete and submit any recommendations to the City Council by June 30, 2015.

**ISSUE:**

This requested Council action would appropriate funds from the Council Contingency Funds, which will allow City staff to negotiate and execute an agreement for services with a facilitator to work with the Task Force during the process of developing recommendations for the June 30, 2015 submittal deadline. After the recommendations are submitted, the Council will need time to discuss them and consider a resolution to place a minimum wage alternative on the ballot; therefore the Task Force will need to convene, discuss, and agree on recommendations in a short timeframe and the assistance of a facilitator during the process would be beneficial.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council could reject the use of the Contingency Funds for this purpose.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the Council approve the use of the Contingency Funds so an agreement can be negotiated for facilitation services to assist this process with the Task Force to meet the recommendation submittal deadline of June 30, 2015.

**FISCAL IMPACT:****EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1030 – Council Contingency	660000	5330100	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$30,000</b>

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:**

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
<b>TOTAL</b>			

*This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.*

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$30,000**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED?** The Council Contingency Fund has appropriation authority allowing for the expenditure of requested funds.

**IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.**