



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager
FROM: Assistant Chief Shawn Gustason, Police Department
COPY: Council Committee, Chief Ramsdell
SUBJECT: Public Safety briefing: South Tacoma Business District and Neighborhood
DATE: April 6, 2017

SUMMARY:

Tacoma Police Department will provide a briefing to the Community Vitality and Safety Council Committee on public safety efforts for the South Tacoma Business District and surrounding areas. This request originates from concerns expressed by representatives of the Business District following City Council's approval to acquire property at 5401 South Tacoma Way for the a potential youth and young adult drop in center and overnight shelter. City Council has requested the Police Department to provide a plan to address the community concerns of public safety impacts to the surrounding neighborhood.

BACKGROUND:

On January 24, 2017 Tacoma City Council approved the acquisition of 5401 South Tacoma Way for the potential operation of a youth and young adult drop in center (ages 12-24) and overnight shelter (ages 18-24). Community and business groups have voiced concerns over potential future impacts on crime and public safety resources that the addition of the drop in center could produce.

The South Tacoma mixed use area is a combination of businesses, apartments and single family residences. The location is within the boundaries of the South Tacoma Neighborhood District and the South Tacoma Business District.

The Police Department participates in monthly meetings with 12 established community groups within the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council and in a monthly meeting with the South Tacoma Business Association.

ISSUE:

Because the drop in center has not been operationalized, impacts on public safety, as a result of the drop in center, are unknown. The Police Department will continue to address the community concerns through outreach, monitoring crime statistics and calls for service data and allocation of resources to address potential impacts.

Tacoma Police Department and staff from Neighborhood and Community Services are working to develop strategies for communications, patrol and operations efforts to address safety onsite at the proposed drop in center and surrounding neighborhood/business areas.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The plan will be implemented with available resources.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.