



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Council Member Lauren Walker Lee and Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston

COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File

SUBJECT: **Changes to Citizen's Forum format**

DATE: November 21, 2017

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

I respectfully ask the City Council to consider changes to the Rules of Procedure to strike Rule 9 Section C and replace with the following in regards to Citizen's Forum. Instead of the existing format, the following one year pilot project will include:

- Each Council position shall host a citizen's forum in their district. The Mayor and Councilmembers elected at large, shall host their forums across the city to tackle the broad issues facing the City as a whole
- The purpose of these citizen's forums shall be to ensure the residents of the City have direct access to their councilmembers. The forums for each district shall focus on issues of concern to members' of that geographic area.
- The format of this forum shall allow for more back and forth dialogue between residents and Councilmembers. The City will work with the Center for Dialog and Resolution to develop and implement a strategy to give structure to the dialogue and facilitate conversation
- The same rules shall be in force preventing those speaking at citizen's forum from: advertising, commenting on campaigns or anyone currently elected to or running for office, or directing remarks at a particular Council or staff member. The same rules regarding courtesy and procedure shall be maintained.
- The forums will not be televised, but may include audio recordings and minutes
- Attempts will be made to use public facilities with limited costs to the City. All facilities must be accessible to persons with disabilities
- Attempts will be made in collaboration with the Office of Equity and Human Rights to market these forums to diverse communities and ensure improved language access
- One forum will be held each month with the exception of January and December

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

There are concerns that the current process does not adequately allow residents to engage with their councilmembers. This format does not adequately address the variety of concerns across the city, nor does it always address the concerns of diverse communities. This approach would be more equitable and allow a broader range of voices to be heard, thereby helping the Council make thoughtful policy decisions. It also ensures residents of each district have the opportunity to share their views on a variety of topics without having to come down to the Municipal Building.

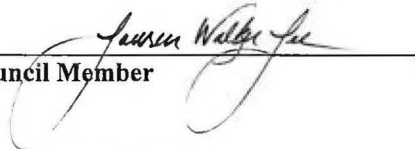
FUNDING REQUESTED:

\$25,000 from Council Contingency Funds for the Center for Dialog and Resolution to assist in developing the new format and facilitating conversations.

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Rebecca Boydston at 253-591-5164 or rboydston@cityoftacoma.org

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____

Council Member



SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS 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. Joe Fonegan

POS # 5

2. Tracy Campbell

POS # 4