



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kim Bedier, Acting Director, Community and Economic Development
COPY: Economic Development Committee; Tadd Wille
PRESENTER: Shari Hart, Community and Economic Development
SUBJECT: Farmers Markets Economic Activity
DATE: February 27, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Community and Economic Development staff manages contracts for the five established Farmers Markets. This presentation is an update on Farmers Market activities in support of Council Strategic Policy Priorities, Tacoma2025 Strategic Plan, and Economic Development Strategic Framework.

BACKGROUND:

Tacoma Farmers Market began in 1990, when two community activists reached out to the City of Tacoma with a noble goal of downtown revitalization; the Proctor Farmers Market launched in 1994. Additional neighborhood markets were started in 6th Ave in 2008 (closed in 2016), South Tacoma in 2010, East Tacoma in 2015, and Point Ruston in 2017. These markets provide the community with access to fresh, local farm products, while providing a venue for growers to sell crops and other entrepreneurs to sell locally produced goods.

ISSUE:

The farmers markets act as small business incubators and support numerous community wellness and education efforts. They conduct outreach to underserved populations and secure leveraging grants for EBT, WIC, and Senior Vouchers, and are leaders in renewable and sustainable lifestyle options, including purchasing from locally owned and operated businesses.

This presentation will provide an overview of economic impacts, small business incubation, community health impacts, and equity & diversity outreach of the markets. The Tacoma Farmers Market vendors and board continue to have challenges in some markets and continuously look to find solutions that balance the needs of the neighborhoods with the farmers/vendors, and the sustainability of the organization. The operational leads of the two farmers market organizations will be presenting along with CED staff.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no additional fiscal impact.

Current funding via Community and Economic Development for two organizations, for five markets, is \$54,000, plus a one-time funding to sustain the Eastside market at \$11,500.

RECOMMENDATION:

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