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SUBJECT: Government Academy
DATE: July 10, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Local governments' citizen academies can broaden residents' understanding of government, foster better relationships between staff and the public, and improve public interest in local government. A government academy for the public could help create well-informed community members and improve trust between the public and the City of Tacoma. In alignment with the goal described in Tacoma 2025 to "increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma," the City Manager's Office conducted research on the viability of a government academy for residents of Tacoma. Through this government academy, participants could have an opportunity to learn about the functions of various city departments and about civic engagement opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

Staff from the City Manager's Office will present on research about government academies.

ISSUE:

There is currently a lack of representation from residents of Tacoma Districts 4 and 5 in committees, boards, and commissions. There are also residents who want to civically engage, but need a better understanding of the City of Tacoma's role, functions, and resources available to be more effective.

ALTERNATIVES:

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only.