



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development
Carol Wolfe, Supervisor, Community and Economic Development
COPY: Community, Vitality and Safety Committee
SUBJECT: Neighborhood Council Program Recommendations
DATE: September 20, 2018

SUMMARY:

City Staff will present to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee on September 27th recommendations from the Neighborhood Council Program Review as outlined in section 1.45.090 of Chapter 1.45 Neighborhood Council Program of the Tacoma Municipal Code.

BACKGROUND:

Staff conducted a review of the Neighborhood Council Program in 2017 and 2018 and has identified recommendations for program enhancements that will include some revisions to TMC Chapter 1.45.

Section 1.45.090 states that “The Neighborhood Council Program shall be reviewed and revised if necessary by the City Council at least every five years, with a corresponding presentation to the City Council by Neighborhood Council Program Coordinator or other staff regarding the Program overall.” December 2018 will mark five years since the last program review.

ISSUE:

City staff, program liaisons and community members have concerns regarding consistency among the eight Neighborhood Councils related to meeting structure, by-laws, neighborhood inclusion, and individual participation which impact the effectiveness of the program in the City’s overall civic engagement strategy meant to promote citizen participation in government decisions that affect them.

Additional concerns include the level of representation within the program as demonstrated by attendance at Neighborhood Council meetings, the configuration of Neighborhood Council boards not reflecting the communities they are formed to serve, and managing expectations of staff and community towards the Neighborhood Councils Boards which serve as volunteers.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council may decide to not update sections of TMC 1.45.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing. During the presentation, staff will review the recommendations for enhancements to the Neighborhood Council Program to be presented to full Council for consideration before the end of 2018.