



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

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Council Members Conor McCarthy and Robert Thoms and Ryan Mello
COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Executive Leadership Team; File
SUBJECT: Air Monitoring - *PurpleAir* Air Sensors – Pilot Project
DATE: November 29, 2018

ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:

We respectfully request City Council concurrence approval of \$25,000 in Council Contingency Funds to purchase up to 20 fine particle pollution air sensors. These air sensors will be sited throughout the City after consultation with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency ("PSCAA") to determine the most optimal locations for air pollution detection. The air monitors will provide real time measurement of air quality and will be available to the regional air monitoring network managed by the PSCAA. Increasing the number of air monitoring data collection points will increase the capacity of the community to better understand and inform how to address air pollution. Installation and maintenance costs are included in the budget request.

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

On November 13, 2009, EPA formally designated part of Tacoma (the Wapato Hills-Puyallup River Valley area) as 'nonattainment', meaning that the air quality does not meet (or "attain") federal health standards. Air quality in our community is influenced by our topography and the shape of our land, meteorology and weather patterns, and the sources of pollution located in our community. Industry, cars, trucks and ships emit fine particle pollution, but the biggest source of our wintertime pollution is wood smoke. Pollution from wood smoke reaches unhealthy levels on cold, clear winter days when air is trapped close to the land ("inversion" conditions) and there is little wind to blow the smoke away. Poor air quality affects everyone, but children, the elderly, and people with existing respiratory or cardiac health problems are especially at risk. The very tiny size of fine particle pollution allows it to be inhaled deeply in the lungs and even cross into the bloodstream, increasing the potential for health risks. Thanks to the efforts of Tacoma and Pierce County residents – complying with air quality burn bans and participating in a program to remove 5,000 old polluting wood stoves – air quality has significantly improved and EPA returned the area to 'attainment' status in 2015.

Monitoring air quality is essential to understanding and addressing air quality, and the Tacoma *airshed* is one of the most studied *airsheds* in the State. While robust air monitoring facilities have historically been expensive to buy, site and manage, new advances in technology and market conditions have yielded lower cost air sensors suitable for residential consumers to purchase and install. Currently, the PSCAA is piloting the deployment of 'PurpleAir' air sensors in a short-term North Kitsap winter study. In addition, the PSCAA is considering a future air sensor residential loan program, and independently, NE Tacoma residents are purchasing air sensors to better understand air quality in their neighborhood. While these sensors primarily serve educational purposes, they can also provide

reliable data for understanding air quality throughout our community. Once obtained, the information collected by the air sensors is shared and mapped with the 'Purple Air' website and may be utilized by the PSCAA to obtain additional information regarding air quality in a variety of locations.

While the City of Tacoma is not specifically responsible for managing local air quality, the City has a duty to better understand and improve community health. Further, community interest in air quality has grown, particularly as it relates to the impacts of industrial uses on the air quality in abutting neighborhoods. The timing is appropriate for the City to participate in helping to gather more information about air quality throughout the City. A relatively small investment in PurpleAir sensors will provide our community with more information about our air quality and improve our ability to further understand and positively impact air quality for all Tacoma residents. Community confidence in air quality and our ability to address air quality will be improved by gathering more information and the data collected will help better inform our community about the condition of our air. Installation and maintenance costs are included in the budget request.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

State and briefly explain which strategic policy priority is best aligned to this action. Please remove the statements below you are not directly addressing.

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.
- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community.
- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PATH:

☐ **Request for policy development and legislation**

This item is best aligned with the purview of the following Council Standing Committee (refer to Council Standing Committee Process Manual):

☐ Community Vitality and Safety

☐ Economic Development

☐ Government Performance and Finance ☐ Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability

☒ **Request for Resolution**

☐ **Is there a specific deadline for this request?** *(Note: All Council Consideration Requests will be expedited as soon as possible) Before EOY*

Please provide a brief explanation of deadline. Time is of the essence.

FUNDING REQUESTED:

☒ **Council Contingency Fund Request** *Please provide the Council Contingency Fund Biennial Budget Document if this request is for the use of this fund.

Does the request require some other type of funding? ☒ One-time ☐ Ongoing

- \$15,000.00 – Council Contingency Funds (18-19')
- \$10,000.00 – Council Contingency Funds (19-20')

In you have a question related to the Council Consideration Request, please contact Lynda Foster at (253) 591.5166 or Lynda.Foster@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: 
Council Member, Conor McCarthy

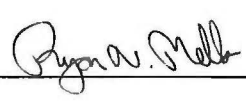
SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)

(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)

1. Robert Thoms

POS #2 

2. Ryan Mello

POS #8 

2017-2018 Council Contingency Commitments

2017-2018 Biennium Budget	\$500,000
	Committed
Hilltop Regional Health Center (\$50K 2017, \$50K 2018)	\$ 100,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39693 (03/28/2017)</i> <i>To support the Hilltop Regional Health Center expansion, contingent upon the Center securing sufficient funds for building renovations and expansion</i>	
Developing an Anchor Institutions Strategy	\$ 50,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39701 (04/18/2017)</i> <i>To develop an anchor institutions strategy to complete a comprehensive study to align current planning efforts, identify gaps, and achieve Tacoma 2025 related goals</i>	
Sister Cities Events for Festival of Sail Delegation	\$ 12,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39747 (6/13/2017)</i> <i>For expenses related to events for visiting Sister Cities' delegations during the Festival of Sail 2017</i>	
Retail Enhancement Strategy Contract	\$ 25,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39776 (08/8/2017)</i> <i>Contract for \$25,000 to develop a Downtown retail enhancement study and recruitment strategy.</i>	
Affordable Housing Public and Private Asset Review and Mapping	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39790 (8/22/2017)</i> <i>Contract with Forterra for \$10,000 for a comprehensive review and mapping of public and private land that could be utilized for affordable housing.</i>	
Tacoma Reads Together Events	\$ 15,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39817 (9/19/2017)</i> <i>Funding to cover contract with author and to cover community events expenses</i>	
Immigrant Legal Defense Fund	\$ 50,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39849 (10/24/17)</i> <i>Subfund creation for deportation hearing defense of immigrants w/o resources and legal Counsel.</i>	
Tacoma Housing Authority Landlord Incentive Pilot	\$ 50,000.00
<i>Resolution No.39876 (11/28/17)</i> <i>Project pilot offering incentives to landlords accepting THA housing vouchers</i>	
Citizens' Forum Pilot Project	\$ 25,000.00
<i>Resolution No.39882 (12/12/17)</i> <i>Citizens' Forum pilot project; agreement with the Center for Dialog and Resolution.</i>	
2018 Race and Pedagogy Conference Youth Summit	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39895 (12/12/17)</i> <i>10,000 sponsorship for UPS Youth Summit</i>	
2018 Refugee Choir Season	\$ 20,000.00
<i>Resolution No. 39901 (12/19/17)</i> <i>Sponsorship of the 2018 Tacoma Refugee Choir Season</i>	
Tiki Apartment Case Management	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Resolution No.40003 (5/1/2018)</i> <i>Providing case management services for Tiki Apartment residents who may be displaced</i>	

Neighborhood Business District Traffic Control Device Reimbursement	\$	10,000
<i>Resolution No. 40025 (6/5/2018)</i> <i>Reimburse NBDs for costs associated with traffic control devices for key events</i>		
Travel Expenses for All America City Award Competition	\$	10,000
<i>Resolution No. 40026 (6/5/2018)</i> <i>Conference to participate in the All America City Award competition</i>		
Paddle to Puyallup Canoe Journey Support	\$	25,000
<i>Resolution No. 40066 (7/17/2018)</i> <i>Support ceremonies and events, fly the Puyallup flag, and display flag in Chambers</i>		
McKinley Street Fair Support	\$	500
<i>Resolution No. 40087 (8/14/2018)</i> <i>Covers cost of traffic control devices for McKinley Street Fair</i>		
2019 Interfaith Women's Conference	\$	10,000
<i>Resolution No. 40109 (9/18/18)</i> <i>Sponsorship for the 2019 conference</i>		
Tools to Address and Manage Impacts of Exploitation and Sexual Assault	\$	6,500
<i>Resolution No. 40167 (11/20/2018)</i> <i>Contract with Rock, Papers, Scissors for tools for victims</i>		
Santa Parade Traffic Control Devices	\$	2,000
<i>Resolution No. 40171 (11/27/18)</i> <i>Covers cost of traffic control devices for 6th Avenue Santa Parade</i>		
Total 2017-2018 Approved by City Council Through Legislation	\$	441,000.00
2017-2018 Biennium Budget Remaining		\$59,000