



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
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**COPY:** Economic Development Committee; Bucoda Warren  
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**SUBJECT:** Update on Namatad  
**DATE:** January 29, 2019

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

Mayor Victoria Woodward announced the launch of Namatad at the 2018 State of the City Address. The company, resulting from a cooperative relationship between Community and Economic Development ("CED"), Tacoma Fire Department ("TFD"), and Matt Tolentino, Ph.D., will brief the committee on the status of its product development and testing.

**BACKGROUND:**

Dr. Tolentino, an assistant professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at University of Washington-Tacoma, is an expert in the Internet of Things who approached CED three years ago looking for a "problem to solve". TFD responded enthusiastically, highlighting issues of firefighter safety. At that time firefighters inside buildings were all but invisible to incident commanders managing emergencies and trying to protect firefighters lives. Hazards such as heat and chemicals were undetectable and smoke made it often impossible to locate a firefighter inside a burning or collapsing building. Best practices were to manually trace the fire hose to find a firefighter trapped in a building. Applying technology through the Internet of Things allowed Namatad to be formed, with hopes of ultimate commercialization and a new job-creating technology company in Tacoma.

**ISSUE:**

Part of the City's economic development strategy is to encourage development of viable, high wage-paying companies, i.e. "grow our own". The case study of Namatad demonstrates one instance where such a strategy is paying off in the development of an innovative product that serves an important need and offers the potential for high paying employment for Tacomans as the product commercializes.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

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

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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