



Policy on Place Names and Name Changes

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services Department

**Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability
Committee**

August 7, 2019



OVERVIEW



A resolution is requested to amend the
City Council Policy on Place Names
and Name Changes

- History of policy
- Issues with current policy
- Staff recommendations

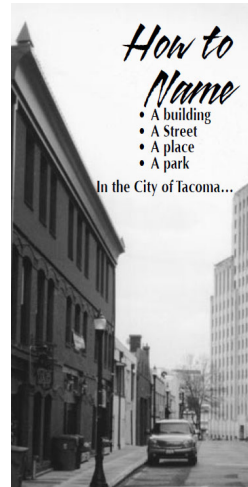


Jack Hyde Park, named in 2002

BACKGROUND



- First naming policy dates from 1989
- Originally initiated by Mayor
- Established criteria
- Landmarks Commission conducted hearing and recommendation
- Name changes adopted via council resolution
- No distinction for streets



Naming brochure, 2003

3

BACKGROUND



- Policy updated in 2010
- Created application process; requests go directly to Landmarks
- Added special criteria for streets and interdepartmental coordination



Tollefson Plaza, named in 2006

4

ISSUES



Fishing Wars Memorial Crossing, named in 2019

Current policy issues include:

- Policy criteria are not well-aligned with current City policy priorities, including concepts of equity, inclusion and reconciliation
- Current policy limits the discretion of City Council and requires review and recommendation from Landmarks Commission regardless of council sponsorship or historical relevance
- The policy is not time sensitive and is cumbersome for simple/minor requests
- The policy excludes honoring living individuals

5

PROPOSED REVISIONS



1. Restore Mayor as initial recipient or initiator of naming requests.
2. IPS Committee primary reviewer of requests; Landmarks Commission consulted when there is a historic component.
3. Include new criteria encouraging and supporting initiatives focusing on equity, inclusion and reconciliation
4. Limitation on namings that honor living persons is removed.
5. Street renaming removed from the scope of this policy; recommended that a separate review of street renaming be conducted with Public Works as lead (*ad hoc* review via Public Works until streets policy is completed).

6

●●● HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS



- Amendments reduce bureaucracy and administrative steps, reducing institutional barriers to engagement
- Policy will be updated to include equity, inclusion and reconciliation as criteria, reflecting the City's commitment to these goals.

7

●●● NEXT STEPS



- City Council Consideration – August 27, 2019

8

RECOMMENDATIONS



Staff recommends the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee forward the following to City Council for consideration and approval:

- Adoption of amendments to the Policy on Place Names and Name Changes

9



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