



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Melanie Harding

COPIES TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Request for Resolution: Naming Request for the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street

DATE: September 10, 2019

I am submitting a naming proposal for your consideration and requesting your support for a Resolution to be brought to the City Council on October 1, 2019 that would name the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street as the “Harold Moss Bridge.”

LEGISLATIVE INTENT:

In 2014, the City Council adopted an Equity and Empowerment framework which made equity a guiding principal across the organization and committed the City to changing practices which created or sustained inequities. On August 20, 2019, the City Council approved Resolution 40408 amending the City’s policy on place names and name changes. One of the primary recommendations for updating this policy was to align it with guiding City principals and include the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion when considering place names and name changes throughout the City. The policy amendment also provided the Mayor and City Council with the authority to make naming proposals.

Mayor Emeritus Harold G. Moss became the first African American member of the Tacoma City Council when he was first appointed to the Tacoma City Council on October 6, 1970. He was subsequently elected to a four-year terms in 1971, 1987, and 1991. Overall, he served more than a decade as a dedicated member of Tacoma’s City Council. On January 25, 1994, Harold Moss was appointed Mayor of the City of Tacoma, becoming the first African American Mayor to ever hold that post.

In his many years of tenure with the City of Tacoma, he served in a broad range of leadership roles, including the Association of Washington Cities Executive Board; the Law Enforcement Support Agency Board; the National League of Cities; the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners; the Public Safety Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health; the SR509 Executive Committee; the Puyallup Indian Settlement Implementation Assistance Committee; the Tacoma-Pierce County Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Mayor Emeritus Moss also made history in his lifetime of service by being the first African American member of the Pierce County Council.

In addition to the projects and legislation that he carried out in his elected leadership roles, Mayor Emeritus Moss made countless contributions to the community including helping to found the Tacoma Urban League and securing key funding for its Urban Services Center. He was also a founding member of the Black Collective, and his life of dedication to civic engagement through volunteer service has long reflected the key mission of that organization. In

all of his roles, he provided mentorship and support to a number of developing leaders across the region, and he continues to engage and inspire a living legacy of those dedicated to public service, civic engagement, and volunteering.

When asked about his many accomplishments as a City government leader, Mayor Emeritus Moss reflected that he was most proud of his role in lighting the 34th Street Bridge.

In congruence with the City's naming policy as well as the Equity and Empowerment framework, I am proposing that the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street be named the "Harold Moss Bridge," so that the lights on that bridge may stand as a shining monument to the numerous ways that Tacoma is brighter today due to the leadership and countless contributions of Mayor Emeritus Moss, and that others may be inspired to lives of service and civic engagement.

Additionally, I request that the full City Council consider a resolution confirming this name on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the date of Mayor Emeritus Moss's 90th birthday, to be effective immediately upon passage.

A map of the area indicated and letters support are attached for your reference.

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: October 1, 2019

ALIGNMENT WITH TACOMA 2025 KEY FOCUS AREAS:

This program, project, or event is best aligned with the following:

Civic Engagement:

Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Increase the number of residents who participate civically through volunteering and voting.

If you have a question related to the Council Contingency Fund Request, please contact Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst at 253-591-5156 or Melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: Victoria R. Woodards
Mayor

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS 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.  POS# 3

2.  POS# 4

ATTACHMENT A: Area Map



ATTACHMENT B: Letters of Support

Letters of support are attached from to following:

- Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective Chairperson Lyle Quasim
- Tacoma Urban League CEO T'wina Nobles
- Tacoma Branch NAACP President Gregory Christopher
- Black Women's Caucus of Washington State President Susan E. Alexander
- A. Philip Randolph Institute Tacoma Chapter President Sherrilla BivensHenderson
- District 4 City Councilmember Catherine Ushka

Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective

2316 South Yakima Avenue • Tacoma Washington 98405

September 2, 2019

To: Mayor, City of Tacoma
Tacoma City Council

Subject: Naming Request for the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street in Tacoma

Mayor and City Council Members,

The Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective, a volunteer organization whose mission is to work until equity, inclusion and fairness are a reality, respectfully offer this letter in support of renaming the 34th Street Bridge in honor of Harold G. Moss.

The Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective is in full agreement with the resolution outlining Mr. Moss's civic, social and political contributions over the past fifty years. Mr. Moss is a "civic leader, civil rights activist, selfless citizen and a leading architect of civil rights in Tacoma."

The Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective has been a witness to the courage and resolve that Mr. Moss demonstrates as he works until equity, inclusion and fairness are a reality.

Harold G. Moss has and continues to "Fight for Dreams that Matter" and as a result of his efforts many of our dreams have been realized. The Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council of Tacoma designate the 34th Street Bridge the "Harold Moss Bridge."

Sincerely,

Lyle Quasim
Chairperson
Tacoma / Pierce County Black Collective



**Tacoma
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

September 9, 2019

To: Mayor Victoria Woodards & the Tacoma City Council

Subject: Letter of Support recommendation to rename the 34th Street Bridge span over State Route 7 between East "B" Street and East "D" Street in Tacoma, WA. after Mayor Emeritus, Harold G. Moss.

Dear Mayor Woodards and Esteemed Council Members:

It is my pleasure to write you today to share the Tacoma Urban League's support of the recommendation of the proposal to name the 34th Street Bridge span over SR 7 between East "B" and East "D" Streets in Tacoma, Washington in honor of Mayor Emeritus Harold G. Moss.

As one of the founding members of the Tacoma Urban League, Mr. Harold G. Moss has been influential figure and has made a lasting imprint in his work in the community as a whole. He has been in the forefront of social activism in the Tacoma community for many decades.

He composed the majority of the Human Rights Commission Ordinance that laid the groundwork for the city's affirmative action plan, and he was the first African-American to hold a public office in Pierce County as a city and county council members and as mayor of the city of Tacoma.

Mr. Moss has been a tireless advocate of fair and equal representation for minority groups that were underserved in education, employment, housing, and basic civil rights. He has been a leader, a voice of reason in the community, and a dedicated public servant.

The Tacoma Urban League would like to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Harold G. Moss to the Tacoma community by fully supporting the efforts of naming the 34th Street Bridge after Mayor Emeritus, Harold G. Moss.

Sincerely,

T'wina Nobles
President/CEO
Tacoma Urban League



Tacoma Branch NAACP

September 6, 2019

RECEIVED
MAYOR'S OFFICE

SEP 06 2019

To: Mayor, City of Tacoma
Tacoma City Council

Subject: Naming Request for the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street in Tacoma

Mayor and City Council Members,

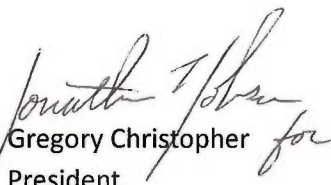
Since 1913, The Tacoma Branch NAACP mission has been to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equity of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. We respectfully offer this letter in support of renaming the 34th Street Bridge in Honor of Harold G. Moss.

The Tacoma Branch NAACP is in full agreement with the resolution outlining Mr. Moss's ongoing civic, social and political contributions over the past fifty years. Mr. Moss is a "civic leader, civil rights activist, selfless citizen and a leading architect of civil rights in Tacoma."

The Tacoma Branch NAACP has been a witness to the courage and resolve that Mr. Moss demonstrates as he works until equity, inclusion and fairness are a reality.

The citizens of Tacoma continue to shape a better future as the result of Mr. Harold G. Moss's efforts to "Fight for Dreams that Matter". The Tacoma Branch NAACP respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council of Tacoma designate the 34th Street Bridge the "Harold G. Moss Bridge."

Sincerely,


Gregory Christopher
President
Tacoma Branch NAACP



Black Women's Caucus of Washington State
Tacoma Chapter
Tacoma, Washington

September 5, 2019

To: Mayor, City of Tacoma
Tacoma City Council

Subject: Naming Request for the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street in Tacoma

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

The Black Women's Caucus of Washington State, Tacoma Chapter, a volunteer organization that was organized over 40 years ago to help break down barriers that prevented Black Women from fully participating in mainstream society, offer this letter of support in renaming the 34th Street Bridge in honor of Harold G. Moss.

The Black Women's Caucus fully agrees with the resolution outlining Mr. Moss's political and civic contributions to our community over the past fifty years. His activities cover a broad range of efforts that include mentoring many young people in Tacoma and Pierce County through the years. He makes sure that equity, inclusion, and fairness becomes a reality for all.

Harold G. Moss has and continues to fight for all of us and we see his efforts realized in Tacoma and Pierce County every day. Because of his continuous courage and service to our community throughout the years, The Black Women's Caucus respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council designate the 34th Street Bridge the "Harold G. Moss Bridge."

Sincerely,

Susan E. Alexander, President
Black Women's Caucus of Washington State
Tacoma Chapter



APRI-Tacoma Chapter

September 3, 2019

To: Mayor City of Tacoma

Tacoma City Council

Subject: Naming Request for the 34th Street Bridge spanning SR7 between East B Street and East D Street in Tacoma.

Mayor and City Council Members,

The Tacoma A. Phillip Randolph Institute, a volunteer organization whose mission is to continue the fight, supporting efforts for social, political and economic justice for all working Americans.

Tacoma A. Phillip Randolph Institute respectfully offer this letter in support of renaming the 34th Street Bridge in honor of Harold G. Moss.

Tacoma A. Phillip Randolph Institute membership is in full agreement with this resolution outlining Mr. Moss's civic, social and political contributions over the past fifty years. Mr. Moss is a "civic leader, civil rights activist, selfless citizen and a leading architect of civil rights in Tacoma.

The Tacoma A. Phillip Randolph Institute has been a witness to the courage and resolve that Mr. Moss demonstrates as he works until equity, inclusion and fairness are a reality.

Harold G. Moss has and continues to "Fight for Dreams that Matter" and as a result of his efforts many of dreams have been realized. The Tacoma A. Phillip Randolph Institute respectfully request that the Mayor and the City Council designate the 34th Street Bridge the "Harold G. Moss Bridge."

Sincerely,

Sherrilla BivensHenderson

Tacoma Chapter President; A. Phillip Randolph Institute



City of Tacoma

Catherine Ushka

Position 4

September 9, 2019

To whom it may concern,

It is my honor and privilege to write a letter of support to rename the 34th Street Bridge after Mayor Emeritus Harold Moss. Mayor Emeritus Moss holds a special place in Tacoma's history as our first African American City Council Member, Mayor, and first African American member of the Pierce County Council. His dedication to civil rights, equity and empowerment are hallmarks of his time as Mayor and still pave the way for others following in his footsteps today.

In addition to his own renown, he has an unwavering focus on mentoring future generations, including many of us now in service. Tacomans from all backgrounds and communities have been inspired by Mayor Emeritus Moss to live lives of service and civic engagement. He has personally lit bridges to civic understanding throughout his lifetime, and continues to inspire unwavering focus for leaders to bridge differences and find solutions amidst our greatest challenges. His legacy can be seen anywhere in Tacoma where civic leaders gather, and we are better for it.

Given all of his service, I adamantly support this dedication in honor of Mayor Emeritus Moss. Naming the 34th Street Bridge, to be the "Harold Moss Bridge," will be a constant reminder of these legacies, and to we and future generations to bridge our differences and let the light of civility guide our paths towards greater justice and understanding in all that we do. I encourage your approval of this outstanding representation of Mayor Emeritus Moss's impact on the City of Tacoma.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ushka

Tacoma City Council Member, District 4