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COPY: Government Performance and Finance Committee; Linda Stewart, Neighborhood and Community Services Director
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SUBJECT: Tacoma Anchor Institution Network
DATE: September 6, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

This is to provide the Government Performance and Finance Committee with an overview of the anchor institution initiative and next steps and progress of the Tacoma Anchor Collaborative.

BACKGROUND:

The term anchor institutions refers to organizations that are rooted in place and cannot pick up and leave a community easily, for examples hospitals and universities. Anchor strategies focus on how these anchor institutions are uniquely positioned to address economic disparities and build community wealth by intentionally focusing on employment and workforce development strategies on communities most impacted by adverse economic conditions.

This work to establish a Tacoma Anchor Collaborative began in 2016 when staff and anchor partners traveled to Cleveland to see this model in action. The collaborative model of anchor institutions was a model that could help Tacoma to reach its goals through 2025 in a way that supports community. After getting back to Tacoma work began to start exploring the anchor institution concept for Tacoma.

In the fall of 2017, the City hires The Democracy Collaborative (TDC) to explore a collaborative strategy in Tacoma. TDC conducted interviews and hosted two days of workshops through February to develop strategies for anchor partners to form a network. The final report showed that the elements for a strong anchor network existed, and that the City was well positioned to take on the role of coordinating the network.

ISSUE:

On August 15, 2019, a kick-off event was held with executives and staff from Tacoma's anchor institutions to start developing a collaborative network. Staff shared how this work can align to Tacoma 2025 and how working together can be beneficial to the anchors and the community. From this meeting the anchors committed to bringing the right people into the room to draft a memorandum of understanding for the network and set goals to address local hiring, local procurement, and housing development.

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.