



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to Mayor Woodards, City Manager’s Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution expressing support for the National League of Cities’ Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda – January 28, 2020
DATE: January 15, 2020

SUMMARY:

The National League of Cities (NLC) has undergone its first-ever effort to craft a national agenda timed with the federal election cycle. The 2020 Cities Agenda was formed by a bipartisan taskforce and communicates to those who hold or seek federal office the priorities of the 19,000 municipalities represented by NLC: 1.) Building sustainable infrastructure; 2.) Creating a skilled workforce; 3.) Ending housing instability and homelessness; and 4.) Reducing gun violence. These four areas are in alignment with federal issues prioritized by the Tacoma City Council. In joining in collective action with NLC, the City can promote the prioritization of these issues on the national stage and encourage current and prospective federal leaders to consider the needs of local governments across the country when developing their policies and priorities.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker
Councilmember Ushka

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Foster a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents.
- Encourage thriving residents with abundant opportunities for life-long learning.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

BACKGROUND:

In its work to represent 19,000 cities across the United States and in acknowledgement that the presidential platforms built in 2020 will likely have longlasting impacts on cities and towns, NLC has undergone its first-ever effort to craft a federal agenda for the current election cycle. The 2020 Cities Agenda was created by a bipartisan task force composed of 28 local leaders from across the country, including Mayor Woodards. The Task Force convened between June and November 2019 to develop the agenda, and it was subsequently accepted by the full 40-member NLC Board at the annual City Summit held in November 2019.

NLC proposes that elected leaders in local government are uniquely positioned to understand the day-to-day needs of the community, as they interact with constituents every day – in the grocery store, in places of worship, and at school/community events. The 2020 Cities Agenda reflects this deep understanding of America’s top needs and concerns.

The four pillars of the agenda – building sustainable infrastructure, creating a skilled workforce, ending housing instability and homelessness, and reducing gun violence – reflect items prioritized by the Tacoma City Council as well as concerns that have consistently been included in NLC’s annual advocacy agenda. They also address pressing, emergent topics that have arisen in NLC’s Standing Federal Advocacy



Committees. This national agenda allows cities to join together efficiently and collectively raise the profile of the impact of federal policies/platforms on local jurisdictions.

A full copy of the agenda is attached for your information.

ISSUE:

Federal platforms formed during 2020 have the potential to have an enduring impact on Tacoma and other United States cities and towns. Collective action is the most effective way for cities and towns to influence federal agendas on areas of shared interest.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could choose to be silent on this issue or express dissent with NLC's 2020 Cities Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mayor Woodards shared a Council Consideration Request at the January 14, 2020 Study Session requesting a resolution for the City Council's consideration. The resolution sponsors recommend that Tacoma join cities across the nation in supporting this agenda and encouraging those who hold or seek federal office to consider the needs of local governments across the country when developing their policies and priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an effort led and staffed by NLC; there is no fiscal impact.