



RESOLUTION NO. 40600

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BEALE,
2 HINES, AND WALKER

3 A RESOLUTION relating to vehicle speeds, social distancing, and safe movement
4 on Tacoma's streets during the COVID-19 emergency; directing the City
5 Manager to create and promote appropriate public service announcements
6 that are aimed to improve public awareness of the impacts of speeding on
7 City roads; and encouraging voluntary compliance with a limit of 20 miles
8 per hour on residential streets, for the safety of our entire community.

9 WHEREAS the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") transmission is widespread
10 in our region, and as of May 6, 2020, 518 COVID-19 cases and 17 tragic deaths
11 have been reported in the City of Tacoma, and

12 WHEREAS Washington State declared a state of emergency related to
13 COVID-19 on February 29, 2020, and

14 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma proclaimed a state of emergency related to
15 COVID-19 on March 12, 2020, and

16 WHEREAS social distancing is a technique of physically distancing between
17 people, meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and is recommended by the
18 Centers for Disease Control and health professionals, and

19 WHEREAS COVID-19 has limited the public's ability to safely walk and
20 recreate in our City parks and multi-use trails, many of which have been closed or
21 their capacity for use limited due to the need to social distance, and

22 WHEREAS thousands of Tacoma residents are complying with the
23 Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order and are spending more time in their
24 residences and neighborhoods, increasing the need for outdoor recreation, and
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WHEREAS Tacoma’s safe walking pathways/sidewalks, parks/trails, and open spaces have been distributed inequitably, and

WHEREAS previous decisions regarding roadway design emphasized roadway capacity and vehicle speed over people-centered streets, leaving many neighborhoods disconnected and uncomfortable places to walk, and

WHEREAS vehicle speeds are directly correlated to the severity of injuries and death by pedestrians and bicyclists, wherein only 1 out of 10 pedestrians struck by a vehicle traveling 40 MPH survive without mortal injury, and 9 out of 10 pedestrians involved in a collision with a vehicle traveling 20 MPH survive, and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 40559, concerning the City’s Vision Zero efforts, which prioritized the study of speed in the City and the endorsement of a future measure to lower speeds on the roads of Tacoma, and

WHEREAS Tacoma residents are using streets as shared public spaces, and providing more room would make it easier to achieve space consistent with social distancing protocol, and

WHEREAS there is a compelling public safety and health need to create more space for safe walking on our streets; promote walking, biking, and people-powered transportation to address the need for recreation and physical activity and transportation; and improve the awareness of the motoring public of the impacts of speed in the City, in an effort to reduce conflicts between motorists and pedestrians; Now, Therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TACOMA CITY COUNCIL:

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Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to work with City staff and community partners to create and promote appropriate public service announcements that are aimed to improve public awareness of the impacts of speeding on City roads.

Section 2. That Tacoma residents are encouraged to voluntarily comply with a limit of 20 miles per hour on residential streets for the safety of themselves, their neighbors, and our entire community.

Section 3. That the City Council finds that this Resolution is necessary, routine, and consistent with Governor Inslee’s emergency proclamation issued March 24, 2020, and recently extended, suspending portions of the Open Public Meetings Act through May 31, 2020.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney