



Req. #

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION relating to Equity; the City of Tacoma is affirming its commitment  
2 to equity in the wake of COVID-19 and the devastating impact on our  
community.

3 WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 has significantly impacted the  
4 health, social, and economic fabric of the City of Tacoma; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, throughout this pandemic our community has relied heavily on  
7 the labor of frontline essential workers in fields such as agriculture, cleaning,  
8 delivery and warehousing, grocery, healthcare, and public transit, and people of  
9 color are over-represented in these sectors and are at greater risk of exposure to  
10 the COVID-19 virus; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, nationally, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that less than  
13 one in five black workers and roughly only one in six Hispanic workers are able to  
14 work from home; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific  
17 Islanders represent a disproportionate share of the COVID-19 cases across  
18 Pierce County, with them being impacted at rates two to five times greater than  
19 white residents; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, systemic racism and long-standing inequalities have resulted in  
22 communities of color being more likely to have risk factors that negatively affect  
23 their health, including the outcomes of cases of COVID-19; and

24  
25  
26



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

WHEREAS, these same systemic factors have resulted in communities of color being less likely to have medical insurance and access to adequate medical care during the time of this global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 impacts both the physical as well as the financial health of our residents, and communities of color – and Black and Hispanic families in particular – are over-represented in the percentage of asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE) households and, because of this, are more likely to experience food insecurity and housing instability during this period of economic turmoil; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma is an active member of the National League of Cities (NLC) and Mayor Woodards serves as a co-chair of NLC’s Race, Equity, And Leadership Council (REAL) initiative, which encourages local leaders to introduce and adopt an equity resolution that publicly affirms the municipalities’ commitment to equity, justice and fairness in its response to the novel Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma is committed to equity in our service delivery, decision making and community engagement, including our COVID-19 response; Now, Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:**

Section 1. The City of Tacoma hereby affirms its commitment to equity, justice, and fairness in its response to the novel Coronavirus.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

Section 2. The City of Tacoma will utilize our resources, platforms, and authority to identify and address the ways that COVID-19 is exacerbating existing inequities in our communities.

Section 3. The City of Tacoma affirms its commitment to not using fear to scapegoat communities or engaging in other languages that results in “othering” marginalized community members in communications related to COVID-19 and setting a tone that rejects these tendencies and promote messages of anti-racism.

Section 4. Our municipality will lift up the medical and social needs of the most marginalized and demonstrate how centering their needs ensure the safety and health of all.

Section 5. 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.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney