



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor  
**COPY:** Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; Mike Slevin, Claire Goodwin  
**PRESENTER:** Melanie Harding, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor, City Manager's Office  
**SUBJECT:** Preliminary discussion of a request for a "Brewery Blocks" place name designation  
**DATE:** September 24, 2021

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**  
Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

A "Brewery Blocks" place name request has been referred to the City Council Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (IPS) Committee to oversee the naming request process and make a recommendation on the request to the City Council. This is an initial informational briefing where staff will seek the Committee's input on what other feedback or information they would like staff to gather before consideration of the naming request (currently scheduled for the October 27, 2021 IPS meeting).

**BACKGROUND:**

In accordance with the current policy on place names and name changes adopted by Council Resolution No. 40408 in August 2019, requests for place names or name changes are first received by the Mayor's Office. Scheduling and next steps are then determined, with the Council's IPS Committee being named as generally overseeing the naming request process and developing a recommendation on the request for the consideration of the Council. The IPS Committee may, at its discretion and depending on the nature of the request, seek input and feedback on the request from appropriate City Departments, Divisions, and Boards and Commissions. Following this process, the IPS Committee may make a recommendation that the Council adopt the proposal, defer if additional information is required, or deny the proposal if it doesn't fit the policy criteria. Naming requests do not impact land use regulations or put any additional requirements or restrictions on impacted properties.

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, the Mayor's Office received a request from Horizon Partners Northwest and neighborhood proponents of the Brewery Blocks historic sub-area to recognize the area with a place name. The proposed Brewery Blocks boundary is described as being bounded between South 21<sup>st</sup> and South 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and between Pacific Avenue to the east and the yet-to-be-developed public thoroughfare known as the Prairie Line Trail to the west (maps are included in the attached application). The received application appears to include all necessary components outlined in the naming policy.

The authors indicate that, "The area has been the center of the Tacoma Brewing industry for at least 110 years. These blocks have been the historic home of Carling Brewing, Columbia Brewing, and Pacific Brewing Companies. The purpose of this request is to formally identify and recognize this portion of Tacoma as the Brewery Blocks. The Brewery Blocks area is partially within the Union Depot/Warehouse Historic Special Review District and the Union Station Warehouse Conservation District." They estimate that seventeen properties would be included in the area proposed for the "Brewery Blocks" designated place name. Proponents of the Brewery Blocks name designation indicated that they have discussed the proposal with neighboring property owners, retailers, and residents within the district as well as neighbors and institutions in the surrounding district. The application provides detailed information on involved properties, including their historic uses.



If their naming request is approved, pedestrian gateway signage has been designed and will be installed at private property owner expense (adhering to all city design, safety, and land use requirements) to help the public better understand the geographical limits of the Brewery Blocks area. The applicants indicate that:

*Historical research has been conducted to help developers and property owners better understand the significance of the properties they hold. This research will help city planners, the Historic Preservation Commission, residents, visitors and retailers within the Brewery Blocks to better understand and embrace the role history has played in the appearance and backstory of the area. Interpretative displays and web based storytelling can help bring the message to the public regarding how the district developed; who was responsible for its growth; and more complete understanding of why the district is comprised of so many masonry-built warehouses in this portion of Tacoma.*

When 2021 comes to a close, two members on the IPS Committee – Councilmembers Beale and Hunter – will reach the end of their current term. To provide continuity in this review as well as a prompt response to the proponents who brought forward this naming request, the initial sponsors respectfully request that IPS complete its review and recommendation in time to allow Council to discuss and vote on any resulting resolution by December 14, 2021 (the final Council meeting of the year).

**ISSUE:**

Staff will provide a brief presentation on the naming request received and seek Committee feedback on the review process, including whether IPS would like input and feedback from any City Departments, Divisions, and Boards and Commissions in advance of their review of the request (currently scheduled for October 27, 2021).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an informational briefing only. While Committee input will be sought, there is no formal recommendations or alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. While Committee input will be sought, there is no formal recommendations or alternatives presented.