



# CITY OF TACOMA

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### ISSUE BRIEF

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office

**SUBJECT:** 2022 Federal Agenda Recommendations Brief

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The City's Government Relations team will present policy recommendations to Council for consideration of an advocacy platform for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, which begins January 2022. This memorandum provides background information on examples of legislation and federal actions in accordance with the City's Systems Transformation goals. Links to bill information and full text are provided below each item.

Policy recommendations were crafted considering the following:

- (a) A unique federal landscape: The Biden Administration's policy initiatives more closely align with the City's federal priorities than those of the previous administration. Democrats currently hold the White House as well as both houses of Congress, presenting a unique opportunity to advance legislative priorities rather than play defense. However, the upcoming 2022 Congressional election cycle may make for a slower legislative season in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- (b) The infrastructure package and reconciliation bill remain in limbo: The President's bipartisan, sweeping Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and partisan Build Back Better Act (BBBA), his signature social services spending bill, contain several pieces of legislation that reflect city priorities. However, Congress is still deliberating funding amounts of the BBBA and interparty dynamics in the Democratic Party have caused a delay in voting.
- (c) Pending items from the City's 2021 legislative agenda.

#### **LEGISLATION**

##### **Policing and Criminal Justice System Transformation**

- **Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act:** This bill would strengthen federal and state governments' ability to investigate police departments with a pattern or practice of unconstitutional and discriminatory behavior, and reverses the Trump Administration's rule to weaken the Department of Justice's ability to investigate police forces with a history of discriminatory police practices.
  - [HR 3732](#) cosponsors 16 Democratic co-sponsors
  - [S 1989](#) 10 cosponsors
  - Note: Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-10<sup>th</sup> CD) is the prime sponsor of this bill.



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- **The Police Training and Independent Review Act:** This bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to award grants to States that require sensitivity training for law enforcement officers, including training on racial bias. It also creates a financial incentive for States to require an independent prosecutor to investigate serious police use-of-force incidents.
  - [HR 1337](#) Currently no co-sponsors
  - [S 738](#) 18 co-sponsors, including U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
- **The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act:** This is a comprehensive police reform package championed by Congressional Democrats in response to the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the nationwide protests that followed. It includes measures to increase accountability for law enforcement misconduct, to enhance transparency and data collection, and to eliminate discriminatory policing practices. This bill passed out of the House in March 2021 but has stalled in the Senate, where Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on a compromise bill in early September.
  - [HR 1280](#) Passed House 220-212 with 199 Democratic co-sponsors
- **Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere (JUSTICE) Act:** This bill is the police reform package championed by Republicans. There is significant overlap with the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, but the JUSTICE Act does not address qualified immunity reform, criminal liability for civil rights violations, and restrictions on the transfer of military equipment. It did include some elements that the Democrats' proposal did not, such as records retention requirements, making it illegal for a federal law enforcement officer to engage in a sexual act while acting under the color of the law, regardless of consent, and adding a criminal penalty for falsifying a police report in connection with a civil rights violation that results in serious bodily harm or death.
  - [HR 677](#) 131 Republican co-sponsors
- **Justice Safety Valve Act:** This bill would allow courts to impose a criminal sentence below established mandatory minimums. This bill was introduced in the Senate by a Republican with one Democratic sponsor. There is currently no House version.
  - [S 2695](#) 1 Democratic co-sponsor

### Economic Security

- **The Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act:** This bill is the primary legislative vehicle on reparations. The measure would establish a commission to recommend reparation proposals in a report to Congress and to examine federal and state policies that contribute to white supremacy.
  - [HR 40](#) 194 Democratic co-sponsors, including Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-1<sup>st</sup> CD), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2<sup>nd</sup> CD), Rep. Derek Kilmer (D- 6<sup>th</sup> CD); Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D – 7<sup>th</sup> CD), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D – 10<sup>th</sup> CD)
  - [S 40](#) 22 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray



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- **Guaranteed Income:** Mayor Woodards has joined Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI), a network of mayors who are studying or piloting guaranteed income (GI) projects in their communities. GI is a monthly recurring cash payment given directly to individuals intended to serve as an unconditional, targeted intervention that supplements the existing social safety net. This network has also advocated for additional Economic Impact Payments (EIPs), also known as the \$1,200 stimulus checks, and the expansion and modernization of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

### Immigration

- **COVID -19 in Immigration Detention Data Transparency Act:** This bill would require Customs and Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to collect and publicly report data about COVID-19 cases and vaccine distribution. Immigration detention facilities would also be required to collect and report this data, in addition to preventative measures in place in these facilities.
  - [HR 1681](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors
  - [S 681](#) 16 Democratic co-sponsors and 1 Ind.
- **New Way Forward Act:** This bill would end mandatory detention policies for immigrants in deportation proceedings, ban local law enforcement from aiding federal agents, and phase out the practice of holding federal detainees in private detention centers and county jails.
  - [HR 536](#) 41 Democratic co-sponsors, including Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D- 7<sup>th</sup> CD).
- **ICE and CBP Body Camera Accountability Act:** This bill requires U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and officers to wear body cameras when engaged in official operations.
  - [HR 531](#) 14 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D - 7<sup>th</sup> CD)
- **Dignity for Detainees Act:** The bill would ensure all immigrants receive individualized and fair bond hearings by ending the use of mandatory detention of certain immigrants and requiring the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish probable cause of removability within 48 hours of detention.
  - [H.R. 2222](#) 110 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Rick Larsen (D - 2<sup>nd</sup>CD), Rep. Derek Kilmer, (D-6<sup>th</sup> CD) and Rep. Adam Smith (D - 9<sup>th</sup> CD)
  - [S. 1186](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray
  - Note: Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D - 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is the prime sponsor of this bill.
- **Federal Immigrant Release for Safety and Security Together (FIRST) Act:** This legislation would provide for the immediate release of individuals in ICE custody during a national emergency related to a communicable disease who are over 50 years old, under 21 years old, or have an underlying health condition. It would suspend the enforcement of civil immigration laws except where there is a risk to public safety and contains various other provisions regarding sanitary requirements in detention centers.
  - [H.R. 6537](#) 44 Democratic co-sponsors including Rep. Adam Smith (D – 9<sup>th</sup> CD)
  - [S. 3645](#) 6 Democratic co-sponsors including U.S. Senator Patty Murray



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- Note: Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D- 7<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is the prime sponsor of this bill

### Gun Violence

- **Bipartisan Background Checks Act & Background Checks Expansion Act:** These companion bills would prohibit firearm transfers between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check. This bill passed in the House in March.
  - [H.R. 8](#) Passed House 227-203; 210 co-sponsors (207 Democratic and 3 Republican) including Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-1<sup>st</sup> CD), Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2<sup>nd</sup> CD), Rep. Derek Kilmer (D- 6<sup>th</sup> CD); Rep. Kim Schrier (D-8<sup>th</sup> CD), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D – 7<sup>th</sup> CD), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D – 10<sup>th</sup> CD)
  - [S 529](#) 45 co-sponsors (45 Democratic; 1 Ind) including U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

### Housing

- **Housing Fairness Act:** The bill directs the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess the prevalence of housing discrimination and creates a grant program for organizations to study the causes and effects of such discrimination.
  - [S 769](#) 12 Democratic co-sponsors