



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: RES-38091 **Version:** 1 **Name:** Policy on place names and name changes
Type: Resolution **Status:** Adopted
File created: 8/17/2010 **In control:** City Council
On agenda: 8/17/2010 **Final action:** 8/17/2010
Title: Resolution No. 38091
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments: 1. RES-38091.pdf

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
Req. #12661				
RESOLUTION NO. 3 8 0 91				
A RESOLUTION relating to community development; authorizing the adoption of the City's revised Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.				
2			WHEREAS, on July 25, 1989, the City Council adopted	
3				
4			Resolution No. 30525, establishing the City's official Policy on Place Names	
5			and Name Changes ("Policy"), which Policy designated the Landmarks	
6			Preservation Commission ("Commission") as the City Council designee for	
7			evaluating proposals for naming public property and for considering name	
8			changes to public property, and	
9				
10			WHEREAS, in fall 2008, the City Council requested that the Commission	
11			review the existing Policy regarding place names, including the review process,	
12			ways to improve public outreach, better criteria and process for considering	
13			street name change requests, and improved definitions of historical	
14			significance, and	
15			WHEREAS, on July 22, 2009, the Commission voted to recommend the	
16			proposed changes to the City Council and made revisions to the	
17			recommendation by motion on April 14, 2010, in response to the City Council's	
18			feedback, and	
19				
20			WHEREAS, on March 1, 2010, and May 19, 2010, the Neighborhoods	

21 and Housing Committee considered the proposed revisions, and
22 WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010, this was presented to the Neighborhoods
23 and Housing Committee, which gave it a "do pass"; Now, Therefore,
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Resl 2661.doc-DEC/lad/tok

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LF.C. nfi4 H I MM

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

2 That the proposed revised Policy on Place Names and Name Changes
3 is adopted, said document to be substantially in the form of the proposed Policy
4 on Place Names and Name Changes on file in the office of the City Clerk.
5 Adopted AUG i 7 20io

6

7 Wyor
8 Attest:

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10 City Clerk

11 Approved as to form:
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14 Deputy City Attorney

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LEG 004 (11/891

City of Tacoma
Policy on Place Names and Name
Changes

Public art installations that have been
commissioned and/or accessioned with a title
that serves as the name of the piece.

SECTION 1: PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

SECTION 3: INITIAL PROCEDURES FOR
CONSIDERING NAME CHANGE REQUESTS

1. In the event that the City of Tacoma wishes
to confer a specific name on a municipally
owned property or street, the following policy
is adopted.

I. Requests for name changes to existing
property may be submitted by any Tacoma
resident, property owner, or City official.

Such a proposal shall be made in writing to
the Landmarks Preservation Commission

2. The criteria contained within this policy
should also be followed in reviewing or
preparing the City of Tacoma's official
comments or recommendations to State,
Federal, and/or intergovernmental boards
taking actions regarding geographic names,
naming, or renaming.

and include:

a. Map illustrating the area affected by
the proposal

b. Any existing place, street or facility
names that would be affected

c. Any common usage names or
nicknames for the area or its
elements, including topographical
landmarks

d. Representative photographs of the
area

e. An overview of any public outreach
or support received for the proposal
to date, including media coverage
and meetings; and
f. A statement of the criteria in this
policy that apply to the request, and
how the proposal meets these
criteria.

SECTION 2: SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

1. This policy affects municipally owned
property only.

2. The following types of municipally owned
property are included within the scope of this
policy (referred to hereafter as "property"):

- a. Buildings and structures, including
overpasses, bridges and viaducts
- b. Real Property, including open
spaces and parks
- c. Rights of Way, including under
certain circumstances, streets

3. The process and criteria for naming or
renaming municipally owned properties
described in this policy do not apply to the
following types property:

- a. Historically registered properties for
which a name has been indicated
on a nomination form and accepted
for use on a historic register,
including property on the Tacoma,
Washington State, or National
Registers of Historic Places

9. A summary of any public outreach
conducted to date, including to
neighborhood associations,
Neighborhood Councils, Business
District Associations, and
commercial property owners'
groups. This may include any
statements of support or
endorsement received. Applicants
are encouraged to seek public
support prior to submitting a request
for name changes.
h. A description of any plans for
interpretive measures to be taken by

City Policy On Place Names and Name Changes
Page 1 of 5

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the sponsor if the naming request is
approved, including signs,
interpretive panels, or markers.

- 2. The Landmarks Preservation Commission,
upon receiving such a request, shall review
the proposal for completeness at its next
available Commission agenda.
- 3. If the request is considered complete, the
Commission may take action to schedule
the request for a public hearing following its

SECTION 4: INITIAL PROCEDURES FOR
CONSIDERING NAMING REQUESTS FOR
NEW NAMES

I. For new or unnamed City-owned properties,
the City Council may make a new naming
request directly to the Landmarks
Preservation Commission.

- normal public hearing procedures.
4. If more information is required, the Commission shall defer scheduling of the request and describe to the proponent what information is needed to complete the request.
5. If no action is taken to schedule the request for a public hearing within 60 days of the first consideration of the request, it is considered denied. The Commission may also vote to deny the request.
6. If the Commission denies the application by vote or by failure to act, the Commission shall not consider the request for the period of one calendar year.
7. If the Commission denies a request, the Mayor may, for any reason, direct the Commission to reconsider its action.
8. Following its public hearing, there shall be a mandatory 30 comment period.
9. After the close of the comment period, the Commission shall review the testimony and written comments, and the criteria contained within this policy, and forward a recommendation to the appropriate City Council Committee for further consideration.
2. When so directed, the Landmarks Preservation Commission shall publicly solicit ideas for naming new facilities, except where otherwise indicated in this policy.
3. Such a call for proposals shall minimally take the form of a press release, website posting, and distribution of an announcement to the Commission's mail and electronic distribution lists. The call for proposals shall state a timeline for submission and review, as well as the criteria for naming contained in this policy.
4. The purpose of the solicitation is to develop a broad array of ideas, and to encourage community participation in the naming process.
5. While an individual may directly propose to the Landmarks Preservation Commission consideration of a particular name for a property, such a request is not required to initiate the naming process for new facilities, nor is the Commission's consideration of names limited to that proposed by an individual.
6. The naming process shall be initiated as soon as practical in the development process.

SECTION 5: PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED

1. For both renaming requests, and names for new facilities, the Commission shall hold a minimum of one public hearing to receive comments on all naming requests.

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2. Notice shall be published in the newspaper as well as sent via regular mail and electronic mail to interested stakeholders no less than 14 days ahead of the scheduled hearing.
3. Interested stakeholders include property owners and occupants within a 400' radius of the subject property, recognized neighborhood and business groups, and parties included on the Landmarks Preservation Commission's contact lists. Other groups or individuals may be contacted as well.
4. Following the public hearing, the Commission shall keep the public record
- a sponsor, incorporating the Commission's recommendation.
4. Otherwise, if the Commission recommendation is modified or rejected, the Council Committee may send an alternative proposal to full Council as a sponsored resolution.
5. In all cases, the City Council will have the prerogative of accepting or rejecting the proposal.
6. The City Council shall approve or disapprove of any naming or renaming action by resolution.
7. Once a name has been officially approved

- open for 30 days minimum to allow for additional comment.
- by the City Council, changes should be strongly discouraged.
5. Following the close of the comment period, the comments received shall be compiled by the Commission and findings made relative to the proposal and the applicable criteria, and a recommendation made to the Council via the appropriate Council Committee.
- SECTION 7: CRITERIA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL AND LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO CONSIDER
- The City Council and Landmarks Preservation Commission shall use the following criteria when considering proposals to name or change the name of a public facility or building.
- SECTION 6: RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL
1. Based on the findings and recommendation of the Commission, the City Council Committee, at its discretion, may accept, modify, reject or remand the recommendation of the Commission, or may recommend to the full Council that an additional public hearing should be held.
1. To avoid duplication, confusing similarity or inappropriateness, the Commission, in considering name changes, shall review existing building and facility names.
2. Context and geo
- -graphical location. Sites and facilities should be given names that directly reflect or are contextually related to the history of the site.
2. If the Council Committee finds that the Commission should reconsider the proposal due to errors in application of criteria or procedure, or if relevant factors were not considered, the Council Committee may remand the decision for further consideration.
- a. Common usage names that have developed over time shall be favored. Facilities may be given official designations based on common usage by residents of an area, such as topographical features, nearby schools, or historical plat names.
3. If the Commission recommendation is accepted, a resolution will be prepared with

City Policy On Place Names and Name Changes

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Page 3 of 5

- b. Names of features indicated on general usage maps for fifty years or more (National Register age criteria) should only be changed under exceptional circumstances.
- SECTION 8: SPECIAL CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS
1. Individuals. Except where otherwise indicated, facilities and public property ordinarily shall not be named for living individuals.
3. Natural or Geological Features. Names may be based on distinctive, predominant and defining natural or geological features of an area.
2. Streets. Official renaming of existing streets, in general, is discouraged except when:
4. Historical Significance. A facility may be given a name based on historical significance if it meets one of the following criteria:
- a. A naming effort is part of a larger, coordinated and planned effort involving multiple streets or blocks; or
- a. The name is associated with a historically significant event or for events reflecting broad patterns of Tacoma's history
- b. Proposals to rename existing streets for individuals may be considered for those persons that have a broad, regional or national significance that is generally recognized by Tacoma residents
- b. The name is associated with the lives of persons of citywide significance in Tacoma's past; or
3. Street Renaming Requirements.
- C. The name reflects a distinctive architectural or engineering achievement
- a. Renaming of existing streets shall only occur at existing shifts in the street grid or where there are clear topographical or geographical shifts in the grid.
- d. The name is related to an existing or

proposed registered historic property or district.

5. Contributions. New facilities may be named for an individual or organization if that individual or organization has made a significant direct property or monetary contribution to the City of Tacoma, consistent with the City's relevant acceptance policies, a for purposes of developing that particular building or facility, and the naming is a stipulation of the donation.

6. Portions of a facility may have another name than that of the entire facility or features may be dedicated to or in honor of a person such as "Tide Pool - Cecil Brosseau" and "Owen Beach" at Point Defiance.

b. The City Real Property Services Division, Public Works Traffic Engineering, Community and Economic Development Buildings and Land Use Service Division, and the Law Enforcement Support Agency shall be given a copy of any street naming request prior to the scheduling of a public hearing on the matter.

c. A signed petition of 51% by linear frontage of the affected property owners in support of the renaming must be solicited and submitted by the proponents of the renaming prior to consideration by the City. Such a petition shall be implemented at the sole expense of the proponents); however, the City may provide a list of affected taxpayers of record.

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4. Street Renaming Alternatives.

- a. Organizations are encouraged to consider alternatives to street renaming requests for the commemoration of individuals or organizations. For example, interpretive plaques at key locations on buildings or sites, or where appropriate, in sidewalks or other visible pedestrian areas.
- b. In some cases, an "Honorary Street" designation may be given to certain sections of existing streets to commemorate the lives of important community members. A commemorative street blade sign may be mounted below the official street name for a defined length of the street, if approved, at the expense of the applicants. "Honorary designations" of streets may be considered as requests for renaming of facilities.
- c. For "Honorary Street" designations, the City shall develop and provide a standard sign specification for approved requests.

CITY CLERK USE ONLY

REQUEST FOR

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0 ORDINANCE [A RESOLUTION

Ord./Res. 3 8 091

1. DATE: July 6, 2010

2. SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER(s) N/A 7

3a. REQUESTING 4a. CONTACT (for questions): PHONE:
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION/PROGRAM Reuben McKnight 253-591-5220
CEDD

3b. "Do PASS" FROM Neighborhoods and
Housing 4b. Person Presenting: Phone:
Z Yes Reuben McKnight 253-591-5220
F-1 No

F-1 To Committee as information only
F1 Did not go before a Committee 4c. ATTORNEY: PHONE:
3c. DID THIS ITEM GO BEFORE THE Debra Casparian 253-591-5887
PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD?

F-1 Yes, on [Date]

No

.j required

///N/I

DepartmentDi

N/A

n

Budget Officer/Finance Director

5. REQUESTED COUNCIL DATE: August 17, 201 0

6. SUMMARY AGENDA TITLE: (A concise sentence, as it will appear on the Council agenda.)

Adoption of a revised Citywide Policy on Place Names and Name Changes

7. BACKGROUND INFORMATION/GENERAL DiscussionN: (Why is this request necessary? Are there legal requirements? What are the viable alternatives? Who has been involved in the process?)

Council Resolution 30525 (July 25, 1989) designated the Landmarks Preservation Commission as the Council designee for evaluating proposals for naming public property and for considering name changes to public property. In fall 2008, the City Council requested the Landmarks Preservation Commission review the existing Council policy regarding place names, including the review process, ways to improve public outreach, better criteria and process for considering street name change requests, and improved definitions of historical significance. The Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to recommend these changes to City Council on July 22, 2009 and made revisions to the recommendation by motion on April 14, 2010 in response to Council feedback. The Neighborhoods and Housing Committee previously considered these revisions on March 1, 201 0 and May 19, 201 0.

8. LIST ALL MATERIAL AVAILABLE AS BACKUP INFORMATION FOR THE REQUEST AND INDICATE WHERE FILED:

Source Documents/Backup Material

Location of Document

Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation
Commission July 22, 2009

CEDD

Minutes of the N&H Committee 3/1 /1 0,
5/19/10 and 6/21110

City Clerk's Office

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office of the City Clerk (0312312009)

CITY CLERK USE ONLY

REQUEST (CONT)

Request 2LPLol

Ord/Res 3 8 0 91

9. WHICH OF THE CITY'S STRATEGIC GOALS DOES THIS ITEM SUPPORT? (CHECK THE GOAL THAT BEST APPLIES)

A. F@ A SAFE, CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITY

B. 0 A DIVERSE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

C. Z A HIGH-PERFORMING, OPEN AND ENGAGED GOVERNMENT

10. IF THE CONTRACT IS FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$200,000 OR LESS, EXPLAIN WHY IT NEEDS LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL:

11. FINANCIAL IMPACT: R EXPENDITURE R REVENUE

A. Z No IMPACT (NO FISCAL NOTE)

B. F] YES, OVER \$ 1 00,000, Fiscal Note Attached

C. R YES, UNDER \$ 1 00,000, (NO FISCAL NOTE)

Provide funding source information below:

FUNDING SOURCE: (Enter amount of funding from each source)

Fund Number & Name: State \$ city \$ Other \$ Total Amount

If an expenditure, is it budgeted? F1 Yes R No Where? Cost Center:
Acct

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cotclerk\fornts\ Request Resolution Ordinance.doc Office of the City Clerk (0312312009)
Resolution No. 3 8 0 9 1
Adopted: AUG 17 2010
Maker of Motion:
Seconded:

Voice Vote:

MEMBERS	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boe				
Mr. Campbell				
Mr. Fey				
Mr. Lonergan				
Mr. Manthou				
Mr. Mello-				
Ms. Walker				
Ms. Woodards				
Mayor Strickland				

Roll Call Vote:

MEMBERS	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Boe				
Mr. Campbell				
Mr. Fey				
Mr. Lonergan				
Mr. Manthou				
Mr. Mello				
Ms. Walker				
Ms. Woodards				
Mayor Strickland				

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