



**TO:** Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager  
**FROM:** Deputy Mayor Kiara Daniels and Policy Analyst Christina Caan  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance to amend Title 1 of the Municipal Code to add Chapter 1.48 entitled "Business Safety and Resiliency Program"  
**DATE:** December 3, 2025

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### SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

An ordinance to amend Title 1 of the Municipal Code to add Chapter 1.48 entitled "Business Safety and Resiliency Program."

### COUNCIL SPONSORS

Deputy Mayor Kiara Daniels, Mayor Victoria Woodards, Council Member Kristina Walker, and Council Member Jamika Scott

**Ordinance Request:** We ask for your support for an ordinance to amend Title 1 of the Municipal Code to add Chapter 1.48 entitled "Business Safety and Resiliency Program." The purpose of this new chapter would be to establish a Business Safety and Resiliency Program that advances Tacoma's strategic objectives, including goals in the Community and Economic Development Strategic Plan, and to establish policy direction regarding allocation of business license revenues within the biennial budget to fund this program.

- The proposed chapter would direct the City Manager to assist the City Council in development of a proposed Business Safety and Resiliency Program that conforms to all applicable legal requirements and can be implemented and funded beginning in the 2027-2028 biennial budget period. Qualified capital programs would be focused upon enhancing public health safety and welfare, as well as emergency response, with the goal of removing blight and activating safe and welcoming spaces for businesses and community members, along with creating physical, social and cultural improvements that help nurture a robust local economy.
- The proposed chapter would also direct the City Manager to include in the preliminary budget proposal for each biennial budget, a proposed appropriation to be considered by the City Council for the Business Safety and Resiliency Program from anticipated revenues to be derived from annual business license fees imposed pursuant to Chapter 6B.20. The preliminary budget proposal for year 2027 should allocate up to 1.5 percent of such anticipated business license revenues to the Business Safety and Resiliency Program and for year 2028 should allocate up to 3.0 percent. Future budgets beyond 2027-2028 should aim for a goal of reaching an allocation of up to 6 percent per year of anticipated annual business license revenues for this program.

The Business Safety and Resiliency Program would help advance the City's Community and Economic Development Strategy by supporting revitalizing neighborhoods and business districts, activating underutilized locations, helping to retain businesses, and helping community members connect with a diverse range of quality jobs.<sup>1</sup> This program would also align with the 2030 Climate Action Plan and One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, as improvements will help

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<sup>1</sup> [CoT Economic Development Strategic Plan 2020 2025.pdf \(cityoftacoma.org\)](#)



mitigate the impact of climate threats and help create complete neighborhoods that have safe, convenient access to goods and services needed in daily life.<sup>23</sup>

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The need for a Business Safety and Resiliency Program is rooted in the Community and Economic Development Department’s ongoing engagement with business development eco-system partners, business district property and business owners, and data obtained from business services such as technical assistance and access to capital. In addition, the City of Tacoma collaborated with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce and EMC Research in 2024 on an Economic Development Business Climate Survey.<sup>4</sup> The survey aimed to collect comprehensive data to help ensure that the City’s economic development work is focused on addressing the needs of local businesses. The survey results showed that 29 percent of local businesses believe that access to capital like City grants and loans is “very important” and an additional 15 percent noted it is “important.” In addition, local businesses noted that safety, cleanliness, and the cost of doing business are paramount when selecting a business location. The survey included interviews with more than 170 businesses with a physical location in Tacoma. The survey was also offered in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean to ensure accessibility.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**Equity and Accessibility:** Creating a Business Safety and Resiliency Program would help ensure that Tacoma can offer consistent financial support for projects that have a community benefit and sustain a thriving local economy. By helping to activate and enhance safety for local businesses, as well as remove barriers to economic opportunity and foster business resiliency, Tacoma can build a robust economy that better enables wealth creation and the delivery of goods and services for all.

**Civic Engagement:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity  
Increase the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

**Economy/Workforce:** *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity  
Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Allocate greater funding for a Business Safety and Resiliency Program.	A larger number of businesses could receive financial assistance.	The Council would need to reduce proposed General Fund spending for other priorities.

<sup>2</sup> [Tacoma CAP Sections.pdf](#)  
<sup>3</sup> [Tacoma's One Tacoma: Comprehensive Plan | City of Tacoma](#)  
<sup>4</sup> [Tacoma Business Climate Survey - TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER](#)



Do not allocate funding for a Business Safety and Resiliency Program.	The Council would preserve full flexibility on how to spend revenue from business license fees.	Some business safety and resiliency needs will likely go unmet, potentially contributing to future business closures and decreased investment.
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### EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

City staff would report to the Economic and Development Committee on the development and administration of the Business Safety and Resiliency Program.

### SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION

Sponsors recommend Council advance the ordinance.

### FISCAL IMPACT

We do not know the amount of revenue business license fees will generate in the future, as the number of business licenses issued by the City each year can fluctuate. Using recent data from 2024 and 2025 (year-to-date), business license fees collected averaged approximately \$18.5M. Assuming that trend continues in the near future:

- 1.5 percent of business license fees would be approximately \$275K
- 3.0 percent of business license fees would be approximately \$550K
- 6.0 percent of business license fees would be \$1.1M

Given that business license fees are currently deposited into the City's General Fund and used to support current General Fund expenditures and programs, dedicating a portion of those fees would require a commensurate reduction in General Fund expenditures or programs.

### What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Proposed funding would be from General Fund resources.

### Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO

### Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

NO

### Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

There is a proposed ongoing/recurring fiscal impact that will require future Council consideration and approval to allocate.

### Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

**Attachment:** Exhibit A