



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Bucoda Warren, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor
Jeffery Jenkins, Director, Public Works
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution conferring an honorary street name to South G Street between 19th and 21st to be named “Curtis E. Montgomery Street” as outlined by the City’s Policy on Place Names and Name Changes – Requested for December 16, 2025
DATE: November 26, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution conferring an honorary street name to South G Street between 19th and 21st to be named “Curtis E. Montgomery Street” as outlined by the City’s Policy on Place Names and Name Changes.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards and Council Member Kristina Walker

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor’s Office on behalf of Public Works Staff is facilitating an honorary street naming request submitted by Greater Christ Temple Church and the family of Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery on October 22, 2025.

In accordance with Resolution No. 41009, which is related to the City’s Policy on Place Names and Name Changes, honorary street naming requests for roadways are to be reviewed as follows:

- an ad hoc work group consisting of representatives from designated City Departments determines if the City’s naming criteria has been met and makes a recommendation in support of or against the naming application (Section 3, Subsection 4.b.ii);
- the work group’s recommendation is shared with the City Attorney’s Office for legal review (Section 3, Subsection 4.b.iii);
- the naming request is typically presented to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee and the Committee makes a recommendation and forwards the request to Council for further consideration (Section 3, Subsection 4.c.i.-iii.).

The request for honorary street naming of South G Street as “Curtis E. Montgomery Street” has been reviewed by the entities designated in Resolution No. 41009. These departments have confirmed the application meets the City’s naming criteria, have given recommendations in support of the naming application. . If adopted, two two-sided honorary street name signs—with a brown background color as expected for street naming of this type—will be added to existing street signs at the corners of 19th and South G street and 21st and South G street, along with an official two-sided South G street name sign with the customary green background.

As a part of the application, the applicant must speak to how the proposal meets the criteria of the policy and identify any impacts to existing naming conventions or facilities.

Criteria Statement

Resolution No. 41009 recommends the City Council consider a number of criteria when evaluating naming proposals, including historical significance; civil service; and equity, inclusion, and reconciliation.



Historical Significance

4.4.a. Name is associated with a historically significant event or for events reflecting broad patterns of Tacoma's history.

Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery's nearly five decades of spiritual leadership and community stewardship on Tacoma's Hilltop establish him as a figure of enduring historical importance. As one of Tacoma's four great spiritual titans, he played a stabilizing and unifying role during pivotal eras from the civil rights movement of the 1960s to the gang and drug crises of the 1980s providing guidance, advocacy, and hope to thousands. His legacy is woven into Tacoma's history through the institutions he built, the lives he transformed, and the recognition he received as "one of Tacoma's historic treasures."

Civil Service

4.5.a. Leadership in civic organizations devoted to community improvement.

Bishop Montgomery demonstrated exemplary civil service leadership through decades of hands-on support to families, youth, and vulnerable community members. His vision and persistence brought the Oasis of Hope Center to life, one of the Hilltop's most significant privately funded community facilities, which continues to offer essential services, childcare, and programs that strengthen families today. His leadership was further honored by the University of Washington Tacoma through the establishment of a scholarship fund in his name, reflecting the lasting impact of his mentorship and commitment to developing future community leaders.

Equity, Inclusion, and Reconciliation

4.6. Proposals may be conferred as a part of the City's ongoing efforts toward improving social and racial equity, inclusion, and reconciliation.

Throughout his ministry and community work, Bishop Montgomery embodied Tacoma's values of equity, inclusion, and reconciliation. He welcomed and served people from all walks of life, fostering unity during times of deep social division and working to bridge generational, racial, and economic gaps. Through his advocacy, support for social work education, and the inclusive programming at both Greater Christ Temple Church and the Oasis of Hope Center, he advanced opportunities for marginalized communities and helped create spaces where healing, belonging, and shared purpose could take root.

Affected Facility Names, Rights of Way, or Existing Places

No facility names, rights of way, or existing places are affected by this proposal.

Common Usage Names or Nicknames

The relevant roadway has not developed any common usage names or nicknames over its history.

Summary of Public Outreach

Included in community Engagement section below.

Description of Planned Actions

Applicants will host a celebration for supporters on December 27th to celebrate the sign installation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

As a requirement of the Policy on Place Names and Name Changes, significant outreach is required before an application can be considered complete. Applicants are required to get signatures, letters of support, or other written method confirming that the property owner of each property abutting the street to be renamed, and within 500ft. For those abutting properties the applicant must receive at least 67% support from those properties, and from those within 500ft they must receive a majority support.

The application met those thresholds. This application also included letters of support from local and national elected leaders, church leadership, news articles, and organizational support from housing providers in the area such as Tacoma Housing Authority and Mercy Housing that demonstrates broad support for the proposal.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

This honorary renaming supports the City's commitment to equity and inclusion by recognizing a leader who dedicated his life to serving and uplifting Hilltop residents across race, age, and income. Honoring Bishop Montgomery acknowledges the historic contributions of Tacoma's Black community, affirms our commitment to telling a more inclusive civic story, and strengthens efforts to build trust and reflect the diverse leadership that has shaped our city.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1.Do not adopt	NA	Request for recognizing impactful Tacoman through this honorary naming is rejected despite broad support.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Signs will be installed following approval and payment by requesters which is an opportunity for the requesters and invited staff and Council Members to celebrate the occasion. Honorary street signs will be maintained along with standard street signs by public works, though damage or theft would require original requesters to pay for new signs.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Honorary naming of this specific city block is fitting and appropriate due to the impact of Bishop Curtis E. Montgomery in this neighborhood and his influence within Tacoma. We recommend adoption of this honorary renaming request.



FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of an honorary street naming request is described in Section 5, Subsection 2 of Resolution No. 41009 which says, "City costs involved in the name changes of a roadway, including honorary naming, shall generally be the responsibility of the applicant." The primary cost is associated with fabricating and installing the new signs; the expected cost for this proposal is approximately \$500 per sign for a total of \$1,000. The applicant has been made aware of these estimated costs and will either bear the costs or will submit a statement of financial need as allowed by the resolution.

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

NA

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

Costs are paid by the requester.

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

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

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

No

NA

ATTACHMENTS:

- Application Packet Materials