CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST

TO:	Mayor & City Council
FROM:	Council Member Kristina Walker and Policy Analyst Christina Caan
COPIES TO:	Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Chris Bacha, City Attorney
SUBJECT:	**Resolution – Council contingency fund request to sponsor the Special Olympics Washington statewide competition in Tacoma**
DATE:	December 03, 2024

I ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of $15,000 to sponsor the Special Olympics Washington statewide competition occurring in Tacoma June 20-22, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Council Contingency Fund Request: I ask for your support for a Council contingency fund expenditure of $15,000 to sponsor the Special Olympics statewide competition in Tacoma engaging and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This event will feature athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to cultivate holistic health, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

- Intellectual and/or developmental disability are terms used when a person has certain limitations in cognitive functioning and skills, including conceptual, social and practical skills, such as language, social and self-care skills.

- Some causes of intellectual and/or developmental disability, such as Down syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, birth defects, and infections, can happen before birth, while some happen while a baby is being born or soon after birth. Intellectual disability in particular can also be diagnosed or occur later in life due to exposure to diseases or toxins or from injuries, such as severe head injury.

- Over 170,000 people in Washington State live with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.[1]

The City of Tacoma's sponsorship would be acknowledged through the use of the City logo on advertising and promotion materials and other forms of community recognition. This event will also bring people from across the state to our city, fostering economic gains for our local businesses. In addition, this event will help showcase Tacoma as a powerful advocate for inclusion, sports and physical fitness in Washington state.

FUNDING REQUESTED: $15,000

[1] The Arc Washington – For People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

DESIRED RESOLUTION DATE: December 17, 2024

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Community members frequently express a desire to ensure that Tacoma is accessible and inclusive for all community members, including those with disabilities.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Equity and Accessibility: The Special Olympics movement began in 1968 and aims to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities discover new strengths and abilities, skills, and success through the power of sports. Special Olympics Washington began in 1975 and will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this coming year in 2025.[2] Special Olympics also aims to promote social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, as well as break down stereotypes about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Special Olympics Washington has huge dependency on its stalwart volunteer corps, many who hail from or live and/or work in the City of Tacoma.

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.
Elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community.

Livability: *Equity Index Score*: Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
Do not fund the sponsorship	Council would preserve contingency funds for other priorities.	The event organizers would need to reduce the scope and scale of the event, making it potentially less accessible to the community and providing less community benefit.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP
The City of Tacoma will provide information on how to apply for the Special Events Funding Program Application in future years.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION
Sponsors recommend providing $15,000 to sponsor the Special Olympics Washington statewide competition in Tacoma.

FISCAL IMPACT
$15,000 from Council contingency funds.

[2] Special Olympics Washington

If you have a question related to the Council contingency fund request, please contact Christina Caan, Policy Analyst, at (253) 219-0679 (phone) or ccaan@cityoftacoma.org.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY: _____

Council Member Kristina Walker

SUPPORTING COUNCIL MEMBERS SIGNATURES

1. _____ **POS#__Mayor_____**

2. _____ **POS#___1_____**