



RESOLUTION NO. 41977

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HINES, RUMBAUGH, AND SCOTT

2 A RESOLUTION authorizing the one-time use of funds in the amount of \$15,000,
3 budgeted from the Council Contingency Fund, in support of St. Leo Food
4 Connection's pilot partnership with the Tacoma Public Library.

5 WHEREAS St. Leo Food Connection ("St. Leo"), established in 1982 as a
6 ministry of St. Leo Parish, is one of the largest providers of supplemental food
7 assistance in Pierce County, and while many residents recognize the organization's
8 downtown food bank, St. Leo also operates a network of neighborhood based
9 programs: mobile food banks, pop-up pantries, high school pantry-style delivery
10 programs, a weekend Backpack Program providing over 72,000 student backpacks
11 per school year, and a Summer Meals Program that provides daily lunches at
12 16 community sites, and

14 WHEREAS demand for food assistance has increased following reductions
15 to federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits that began in 2025,
16 and over the past year visits to St. Leo 's mobile food bank sites increased by
17 44 percent, with the Backpack Program growing annually by 6 to 10 percent, and
18 this year's Summer Feeding Program starting with an 80 percent increase in
19 children served and six new sites, and

21 WHEREAS at the School of Industrial Design, Engineering and Art High
22 School, participation in the pantry-style delivery program doubled between 2025
23 and 2026, and served approximately one-quarter of the school's student population
24 in that school year, and
25
26



1 WHEREAS recognizing an increasing need for accessible food resources
2 for children and families, Council Member Rumbaugh engaged in discussions with
3 St. Leo regarding opportunities to expand services in the City leading to a pilot
4 partnership between St. Leo and the Tacoma Public Library ("Library"), since
5 library staff had identified a growing need for food among youth visiting library
6 branches and had been purchasing snacks with their own resources to support
7 children experiencing food insecurity, and
8

9 WHEREAS as a result of this collaboration, St. Leo has launched a pilot
10 partnership with the Library that includes serving Summer Meals at the Main
11 Library, providing healthy snacks at three library branches, and exploring the
12 feasibility of a pop-up pantry at the Main Library to increase access to nutritious
13 food for children and families, and
14

15 WHEREAS, at the July 21, 2026, Study Session, Council
16 Member Rumbaugh shared a Council Consideration Request to authorize the one-
17 time use of \$15,000 from the Council Contingency Fund in support of St. Leo's pilot
18 partnership with the Library, and
19

20 WHEREAS City staff will negotiate and execute an agreement for services,
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS RCW 35.34.250 and 35.34.260 authorize a withdrawal from the
24 Council Contingency fund for any municipal expense, the necessity or extent of
25 which could not have been foreseen or reasonably evaluated at the time of
26 adopting the budget, and



1 WHEREAS Ordinance No. 22569 requires an affirmative vote of not less
2 than six members of the Council in order to withdraw moneys from this fund; Now,
3 Therefore,

4
5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

6 Section 1. That the foregoing Recitals are hereby adopted as the City
7 Council's legislative findings.

8 Section 2. That one-time funding in the amount of \$15,000, budgeted from
9 the Council Contingency Fund, is hereby approved for the purpose of supporting
10 St. Leo Food Connection's ("St. Leo") pilot partnership with the Tacoma Public
11 Library.
12

13 Section 3. That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to
14 confirm deliverables with St. Leo for the purposes hereinabove enumerated, and
15 document as appropriate.
16

17 Section 4. That St. Leo should report out the results of their program to the
18 City Council.

19 Adopted _____

20 _____
Mayor

21 Attest:

22 _____
23 City Clerk

24 Approved as to form:

25 _____
26 Deputy City Attorney