RESOLUTION NO. 41584

A RESOLUTION relating to workforce development; authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Washington Tacoma, in the amount of $637,078, budgeted from various departmental funds, to design, implement, and manage an engineering pathways program in support of engineer careers for a five-year term.

WHEREAS this request is based on the recommendation of former Tacoma Mayor, and current United States Congresswoman, Marilyn Strickland, and former Environmental Services ("ES") Director Michael P. Slevin, III, to develop a partnership with the University of Washington-Tacoma ("UWT") to build an engineering pathway with a concept and design to help the organization open access and diversify the candidate pools for engineering jobs in the City while supporting a pipeline of local talent into engineering careers in the community, and Pierce County broadly, and

WHEREAS ES, in collaboration with Public Works ("PW"), Planning and Development Services ("PDS"), and Tacoma Public Utilities ("TPU"), seeks City Council approval to establish an Academic Fellowship Program with UWT to forge a new engineering pathway in support of local, diverse, and often first-generation college students obtaining engineering degrees, and

WHEREAS this is in direct alignment with Resolution No. 40622, which supports the Equity and Empowerment Initiative framework of the City, and the utility departments' strategic objectives and guiding principles to become an anti-racist organization, and to reflect the communities we serve through innovative workforce solutions and partnerships, and

WHEREAS the overall objective of this agreement is to engage in targeted community-based outreach and relationship building for the recruitment of students into the program who live or attend school in the Tacoma-Pierce County area, and

WHEREAS the program will provide a comprehensive pathway for such underrepresented students interested in a career in engineering, to earn additional financial assistance in the form of stipends, and to gain scaffolded work experiences while earning their college degrees, and

WHEREAS an additional and important objective is to have students return to the City as highly effective engineers, further reflecting the diversity of the community, and

WHEREAS in addition to this agreement with UWT, each department is participating in a companion contract with Degrees of Change, at various funding levels within their respective contracting authorities that do not require further Public Utility Board ("PUB"), Contracts and Awards, or City Council procurement approvals, and where the collaborating departments agree that ES will act as lead department signatory, and

WHEREAS the interlocal agreement represents a cross-collaboration effort between ES, PW, PDS, and TPU, and

WHEREAS this agreement was approved by the PUB on November 13, 2024, via Resolution No. U-11492; Now, Therefore,

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

That the proper officers of the City are hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with University of Washington Tacoma, in the amount of $637,078, to design, implement, and manage an engineering pathways program in support of engineering careers for a five-year term, as more specifically set forth in the document on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted _____

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Deputy City Attorney