



RESOLUTION NO. 41910

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR BUSHNELL AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2 DIAZ, HINES, AND SCOTT

3 A RESOLUTION relating to economic growth; affirming the potential for high-
4 investment corridors to serve as drivers of economic growth and
5 development; recognizing the importance of community safety along
6 high-investment corridors; and directing the City Manager to prioritize
7 cross-departmental, problem-driven solutions using existing resources to
8 address community safety concerns on high-investment corridors.

9 WHEREAS in the past decade, the City has seen robust public and private
10 investments in new transit, housing, infrastructure, and businesses, and these
11 investments are often clustered together along discrete corridors that span several
12 blocks in Mixed-Use Centers, and

13 WHEREAS these types of high-investment corridors are vital for the City's
14 economic growth because they can attract considerable community use and have
15 the potential to help spread development to surrounding areas, and

16 WHEREAS examples of high-investment corridors include Martin Luther
17 King Jr. ("MLK") Way, from 9th Street to Earnest S Brazill Street; 6th Avenue from
18 South Mildred Street to South Jackson Avenue; South 38th Street from South "G"
19 Street to South Yakima Avenue; and North Proctor Street from North 27th Street to
20 North 24th Street, and

21 WHEREAS while some of the City's high-investment corridors are thriving,
22 others are at risk of stagnation or even decline due to ongoing community safety
23 concerns, and
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WHEREAS for example, the MLK corridor should be well-positioned for significant community use—it has large new apartment buildings, new transit access, new businesses, new art installations, and more, plus, this corridor is within walking distance of numerous office buildings and large medical facilities, has ample parking, and is located by a large public park, and

WHEREAS however, community safety concerns are impacting the success of the MLK corridor in a variety of ways, including limiting the number of people who engage with the corridor, and without focused, problem-driven intervention to enhance community safety, the City will struggle to harness this high-investment corridor to drive economic growth and spread development in the area, and

WHEREAS community safety concerns on the MLK corridor have arisen not just due to crime in the broader Hilltop area, but also because of environmental conditions on the corridor itself, such as extensive visible graffiti and litter, widespread dog waste on sidewalks, overgrown landscaping, open-air drug use, vacant and boarded up storefronts, poisonous rat traps near store entry points, and an underutilized parking lot that is dimly lit, and

WHEREAS this resolution would affirm the potential for high-investment corridors to serve as drivers of economic growth and development, recognize the importance of community safety along high-investment corridors, and direct the City Manager to prioritize cross-departmental, problem-driven solutions using existing resources to address community safety concerns on high-investment corridors, and



1 WHEREAS enhancing community use of high-investment corridors fits well
2 with the City's Comprehensive Plan, which identifies Mixed-Use Centers as the
3 focus for future population growth, employment growth, and new development, and
4 Mixed-Use Centers also serve as the core of the City's long-term growth strategy,
5 and
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7 WHEREAS such locations should be defined as an area that includes less
8 than eight contiguous blocks located in designated Mixed-Use Centers in the City's
9 Comprehensive Plan, and the corridor must have received large-scale public or
10 private investment within the past decade aimed at enhancing infrastructure,
11 transit, housing, and/or new business or non-profit activity, and
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13 WHEREAS corridors experiencing low community use due to community
14 safety concerns tend to show signs of businesses that are closing or on the verge
15 of closing due to high safety costs and fewer customers, attractive properties that
16 face delays in quickly securing new leases, and experience persistent low
17 occupancy rates for new housing, and such corridors are also likely to be
18 struggling to spread economic development outward, and
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20 WHEREAS community safety is more than just the absence of crime, and
21 community perceptions of safety are also shaped by environmental conditions,
22 such as the presence of litter, trash, and graffiti or whether there is sufficient street
23 lighting, well-maintained landscaping, and facilities that appear welcoming, and
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25 WHEREAS the City's broad understanding of community safety suggests
26 that the toolbox for enhancing community safety expands far beyond policing and



1 includes a potential wide variety of services and resources from across multiple
2 City departments, and

3 WHEREAS rather than providing only generalized City services and
4 resources, high-investment corridors need targeted action to increase community
5 use, with such efforts taking no more than 90 days and relying on existing City
6 services and resources, and

7 WHEREAS problem-driven solutions should also aim to draw on lessons
8 from crime prevention through environmental design when possible, as well as the
9 momentum of current cross-departmental efforts, and

10 WHEREAS high-investment corridors in City Council districts that did not
11 participate in the Neighborhood Planning Process and/or Participatory Budgeting
12 should be prioritized for action, and this should include the MLK corridor and the
13 6th Avenue corridor, and

14 WHEREAS in addition, the City Manager or City Council Members should
15 aim to continue identifying current or emerging high-investment corridors that are
16 struggling to succeed due to community safety issues, and

17 WHEREAS if work in the Mixed-Use Centers is successful, the City
18 Manager should also consider taking this type of action to address discrete
19 sections of multimodal and transit corridors when the success of costly
20 investments is hindered by community safety concerns; Now, Therefore,

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

Section 1. That the City Council affirms the potential for high-investment corridors to serve as drivers of economic growth and development, and recognizes the importance of community safety along high-investment corridors.

Section 2. That the City Manager is directed to prioritize cross-departmental, problem-driven solutions using existing resources to address community safety concerns on high-investment corridors.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney