

**PUBLIC POLICY CALENDAR**  
**Subject to Modification**  
**April 30, 2009**

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**May**

**Retirement Board Scope of Authority**

In order to react more quickly to the volatility of the market, the Retirement Board, as their April 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 meeting, moved to recommend to the City Council amending Tacoma Municipal Code Section 1.30.470. This amendment would expand the Retirement Board's scope of authority, by allowing the Board to do the following without appearing before the full City Council: to negotiate and sign contract with investment managers; select investment managers within an investment category; and add a new investment category or change the investment allocation. At the April 15<sup>th</sup> Government Performance and Finance Committee meeting, staff gave an overview of this change in the Retirement's Board scope of authority to the Government Performance & Finance Committee. The first reading of this ordinance came before the full Council at its April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting; the second reading will be at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Mixed-Use Centers**

The City Council amended the Comprehensive Plan policies in 2007 and added three new mixed-use centers. The Planning Commission is currently deliberating several issues regarding these Mixed Use Centers, including providing for greater height along certain designated core streets, adding a palette of options to include in future development to achieve the bonus height, and adding requirements to transition heights at the edge of the centers adjacent to single-family zoning. Other proposed revisions include creating two new mixed-use zoning classifications, increasing minimum densities to achieve the City's growth targets, adding new and revising design and development standards, providing for parking flexibility and rezoning properties within the centers to mixed-use zoning districts. The Planning Commission is continuing to discuss comments received at the August 6, 2008 public hearing. On March 10<sup>th</sup> at Study Session, Council discussed with the Planning Commission their preliminary recommendations and status of their deliberations. The Council met again with the Commission on April 28 at Study Session regarding other actions needed to foster development in the Mixed Use Centers. The Planning Commission is scheduled to make its final recommendations on regulatory and zoning changes Mixed Use Centers on May 6<sup>th</sup>. At the May 12<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, the Council will vote to set the public hearing as June 9<sup>th</sup>. This public Council will discuss these recommendations on **May 19 at Study Session** and vote on these recommendations in June.

## Sister Cities Policy Review

The City of Tacoma began its first Sister City relationship in 1959. Kokura, Japan, started a program that now, 50 years later, encompasses 11 sister cities (Aalesund, Norway; Cienfuegos, Cuba; Davao City, Philippines; Fuzhou, China; George, S. Africa; Kiryat-Motzkin, Isreal; Kitakyushu, Japan; Gunsan, S. Korea; El Jadida, Morocco; Taichung, Taiwan; Vladivostock, Russia;) throughout the world. The first resolution (Res. 16561) creating a Kokura Sister City Committee was passed in 1961. Additional resolutions regarding Sister City Committees were passed in 1979 (Res. 25746), 1980 (Res.26464), 1986 (Res. 29170) and in 1991 (Res. 31568) a resolution creating the Sister City Council was passed. The Community and Economic Department proposes during 2009 to complete a policy review and recommend to Council a new ordinance that would define the responsibilities and procedures relating to the Sister City program. As part of this effort, the application process and criteria for selecting and entering into any future Sister City relationships will also be presented for review by Council. Staff anticipates bringing an update on this proposed revision to the **Economic Development Committee** on **May 26<sup>th</sup>**, with the final ordinance appearing before Council in September.

## Small Works Roster Program Revision

The City's Small Works Roster Program (SWR) current allows contracting companies to register to bid on public works projects with a budget of \$25,000 or less. The Tacoma City Council established the program to offer more contracting opportunities to small, locally owned and operated businesses for public works projects and improvements. Currently, staff is working to revise the program so that more projects would be eligible for the small works roster. Staff briefed the Government Performance & Finance Committee on this item in December of 2008. Staff will return to the **Government Performance & Finance Committee** on **May 20<sup>th</sup>** to recommend these changes be adopted.

## June

### Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The City of Tacoma's Comprehensive Plan is the official statement adopted by the City Council setting forth goals and policies to protect the health, welfare, safety, and quality of life of Tacoma's residents. The Comprehensive Plan was developed, and has been amended on an annual basis, under the auspices of the Planning Commission, in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the City Council adopted the 2008 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Beginning in 2009, the Planning Commission will make its recommendations on the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in June, to allow both staff and Council Members the ability to focus on the amendments separate from budget and other end-of-year items. Thus, Council is scheduled to hear the Planning Commission's recommendations to amend the Comprehensive Plan for 2009 on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** at **Study Session**.