



Neighborhood and Community Services

October 17, 2024

Dear Beacon and Lighthouse Seniors:

I am writing to you to give you more details about upcoming changes to the City of Tacoma's Senior Services programs. You may have been in attendance when we visited last week or you have likely heard that NCS is currently in active negotiations with Metro Parks Tacoma to partner and combine senior services, programming, and activities. We want to emphasize this: **The City of Tacoma is not proposing to end senior services and programs altogether**, but we are exploring changes with Metro Parks Tacoma that will offer more community members more services and program variety at more locations.

Metro Parks Tacoma currently operates four community centers that provide senior programming for Tacoma-area seniors who are age 50+ – People's Community Center in Hilltop, STAR Center in South Tacoma, Eastside Community Center, and The Center at Norpoint in Northeast Tacoma. This proposed partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma is expected to achieve several key goals:

- **Enhance the activity and program offerings to Tacoma-area seniors with a wider variety of classes, workshops, activities, etc.**
- **Expand the reach of senior services in Tacoma to more people (age 50+ vs. age 60+)**
- **Expand access to senior services in Tacoma to more facilities that are more easily accessible using public transportation options.**

Plans are being made for Metro Parks Tacoma staff to visit both Beacon and Lighthouse Activity Center in December for a meet-and-greet to ensure a smooth transition.

With Metro Parks managing senior services, we plan to offer many of the same social engagement, mental and physical health supports, educational supports, and recreational opportunities. In addition, you and other seniors will have access to a wide variety of senior activities and programs currently offered by Metro Parks Tacoma, including a robust list of health and fitness activities, day tours and overnight trips, plus seasonal and special events.

This proposed partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma is part of the Neighborhood and Community Services proposed budget currently being deliberated by the City Council. NCS will present a budget briefing at the Council's Study Session starting at noon on Tuesday, October 22. There will also be public hearings on the proposed budget on Tuesday, October 29 and Tuesday, November 19 starting at 5 PM. You can attend these public sessions in-person at Tacoma Municipal Building (747 Market Street, 1st Floor, Council Chambers) or on TV Tacoma, at tvtacoma.com, or on the City's Facebook page and on Zoom.

The City of Tacoma is committed to pursuing smart, strategic partnerships with other agencies and local jurisdictions that benefit all parties with more cost-effective and higher quality services for our Tacoma-area community members. We believe this partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma will bring significant benefits to you and to all of Tacoma's senior residents who participate in our programs. We look forward to bringing you more information in the coming months.

Please contact Vicky McLaurin, at 253-591-5058 or vmclaurin@cityoftacoma.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Allyson Griffith, Director