



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
Tacoma, Washington
cityoftacoma.org/police

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT

Shelbie Boyd, Tacoma Police Department Public Information Officer, 253-405-7134
sboyd@cityoftacoma.org

Police Response to the 49th Annual Eritrean Festival

Tacoma, Wash. – The 49th Annual Eritrean Festival is organized to take place in the downtown area of our city on August 4-6, 2023. We want to ensure accurate information is provided to our community.

On August 5, 2023, a group of demonstrators arrived in the early hours and vandalized several tent structures that were set up overnight for the event. Later in the morning there were disturbances between demonstrators and festival attendees that were quickly stopped. Demonstrations have not expanded outside of this area.

At this time, our department has deployed numerous officers to ensure the continued safety of community members, event staff and attendees. Currently, traffic is blocked on Market St from 13th St. to 15th St. and 15th St, from Pacific Ave to Tacoma Ave. Please use alternate routes and allow additional travel time in the downtown area.

We will provide updates as the day continues.

###