ORDINANCE NO. 27826

BY REQUEST OF MAYOR BAARSMA, DEPUTY MAYOR ANDERSON, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS LONERGAN AND MANTHOU

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Tacoma Police Department; and amending Chapter 1.06 of the Tacoma Municipal Code by amending Section 1.06.075B.1, entitled "Police Department Citizen Complaint Oversight", to increase the Citizen Review Panel from five to seven members and limiting the number of commissioned law enforcement professionals or retired commissioned law enforcement professionals serving on the panel to no more than three members.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 36536, adopting the recommendations of the Human Rights Commission ("Commission"), regarding citizen oversight of the Tacoma Police Department ("TPD") and directing the City Manager to implement those recommendations, and

WHEREAS the stated purpose of the Commission's recommendations was to improve communication between the TPD and the community, build community trust in the TPD, and improve police accountability, and

WHEREAS the cornerstones of the Commission's recommendations were twofold: (1) the review of internal police investigations by an office outside of the TPD that reports directly to the City Manager and (2) the creation of a citizen panel to review the outside office's work, engage in community outreach, and conduct policy review, and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2007, the City Council adopted TMC Section 1.06.075B.1, through Ordinance No. 27589, creating and clarifying the role of the Citizen Review Panel ("Panel"), and
WHEREAS TMC Section 1.06.075B.1 provides for a Panel of five members, and allows participation by law enforcement professionals, and also provides that Panel members represent the diverse communities of the City, and

WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma's Vision Statement focuses on Tacoma as a livable and progressive international city well regarded for the richness of its multi-cultural population, and the City Mission Statement has at its core the goal of providing high-quality, innovative and cost-effective municipal services that enhance the lives of its citizens and the vitality of its neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, consistent with the strategic initiative in the City's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan, the City has developed an Equal Employment Opportunity and Recruitment Plan that targets improvement in representation of key areas of diversity, and

WHEREAS key areas of diversity include, but are not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, gender, and place of residence, and

WHEREAS, in appointing Panel members, the City Council is guided in achieving diversity by its Vision and Mission statements, as well as the principles outlined in the City's Equal Employment Opportunity and Recruitment Plan, and

WHEREAS, in order to increase the opportunity for diversity on the Panel, the proposed amendments to TMC Section 1.06.075B.1 will do three things: increase the size of the Panel, clarify that provisions relating to law enforcement professionals apply to commissioned law enforcement professionals, and limit the representation of commissioned law enforcement professionals on the Panel; Now Therefore,
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Section 1.06.075B.1 of the Tacoma Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

1.06.075 Police Department Citizen-Initiated Complaint Oversight.

Citizen Review Panel

... B. Creation of the Panel.

1. There is created a Citizen Review Panel ("Panel"), consisting of five members representing the diverse communities in the City of Tacoma. Members must be residents of Tacoma. Commissioned I-Law enforcement professionals and their family members are eligible to serve, provided that no current member of the Tacoma Police Department or his or her immediate family may serve. However, the Panel will consist of no more than three members that are commissioned law enforcement professionals or retired commissioned law enforcement professionals.

... Passed

Attest:

Mayor

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney