



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Chief Ramsdell, Police Department *PE#347*
COPY: Public Safety, Human Services and Education Committee
SUBJECT: West End Alcohol Impact Area (AIA)
DATE: August 6, 2014

SUMMARY:

On February 26, 2013, Ordinance #28135 created an Alcohol Impact Area within the West End of the City of Tacoma. Calls for service for alcohol related incidents increased in the West End over 40% in 2012 and over four fold since the Lincoln AIA was established. A voluntary West End AIA ban was granted by the Tacoma City Council from September 1, 2013, through February 28, 2014. Unfortunately less than 40% (38.5%) voluntarily complied with the City Council's request and Calls for Service for alcohol related crimes did not significantly decrease.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tacoma currently has two established Alcohol Impact Areas (Downtown Core AIA and the Lincoln AIA). Each AIA has measured a decrease in alcohol related incidents involving police calls for service. However, the chronic inebriants are now travelling into the West End to purchase banned products that are not available in the Downtown Core AIA and the Lincoln AIA. This activity has created a health and safety issue in the West End that requires intervention.

At the beginning of the West End AIA Voluntary Compliance period, there was a 17% compliance rate. Compliance reached a high of 49% in December 2013. However, the compliance rate ended with 38.5% participation (15 out of the 39 stores). All retailers and distributors were advised of the end date.

ISSUE:

The increase of unwanted public intoxication and criminal activity causing health and safety concerns for the West End neighborhoods and other stakeholders. Therefore we are requesting a change from voluntary compliance of the retail stores that are selling the banned products, in the West End AIA to a mandatory compliance.

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternatives recommended.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No additional fiscal impact known.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request for Council direction regarding the possibility of a mandatory West End Alcohol Impact Area (AIA). This would decrease the unwanted chronic public inebriants from travelling into the West End to purchase banned products and reduce the corresponding health and safety concerns. The ban would also protect vital resources from being inundated with inebriant type alcohol related issues.