



# TUKWILA CITY PAGES

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## Mayor's Message



### If any city can do it, this city can

Building trust between our City and its immigrant population has been an ongoing value of the City, long before 2007 when Tukwila passed its first Inclusive Community resolution, which was updated in 2016. Yet, we lost trust recently. While on a routine call, Tukwila Police officers encountered a reporting party that had what the officers thought was a criminal warrant from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In the Department's previous experience, when individuals are flagged with having a warrant, they are criminal in nature and signed by a judge. Unfortunately, after further review, it was actually an administrative warrant and the individual remains detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This matters tremendously because for years the City has purposely refused to honor non-criminal administrative requests from ICE. While I know for certain that our officers acted without malice and in good faith, I am nonetheless truly sorry for the impact this incident has had on a Tukwila family.

The Tukwila Police Department has a long history of working with our immigrant and refugee communities. For many years they have developed strong relationships with our newest residents that have benefited all of us. The Tukwila Police Department has a unique partnership with the International Rescue Committee to assist immigrants and refugees transition to their new lives in the United States. To learn more, visit

<https://www.rescue.org/video/watch-40-years-harm-home-seattle>

I know our Police Department will continue to work with these communities and double down to rebuild trust and assure all residents of their safety.

Indeed, we have already taken several steps in response to this incident:

- We changed our policy to state that any warrant from ICE goes to a commander for review before any action is taken in response to the warrant.
- Police Chief Linton has reached out to other police departments in the region to share what our officers ran into, as well as to the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs. We don't want another of our fellow inclusive community cities to experience this loss of trust.
- I shared information about this incident with local, State and federal elected officials.

At the February 12 City Council meeting many in the community testified about this incident. During public comments, we heard requests such as additional training and support for the immigrant community. The City is identifying specific ways it can be responsive to these requests. The Council is also exploring codifying Resolution 1900 in an ordinance, which affirmed our commitment to be inclusive and will collaborate with the community on what that will look like.

We love our diversity; that's why we're here. Rebuilding trust with the community is very important to me as Mayor, to the City Council, to the Police Department, and the City government as a whole. We are united in this. We must work together to set this right. If any city can do this, we can.

*Allan Ekberg*  
Allan Ekberg, Mayor

### Tukwila – City of Trees

The City of Tukwila is updating the regulations – adopted over 20 years ago – that apply to trees on single family properties. The current rules do not reflect the direction of recent changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan, which adopted tree canopy goals for every zoning district throughout the City, including the single-family areas. Tree canopy is the amount of coverage provided by a tree when it is fully leafed out. A healthy canopy provides numerous benefits to our community like cooling our homes in the summer, diverting stormwater to reduce runoff and erosion, cleaning the air we breathe, increasing property values, and more. The tree in your backyard is not only an asset to your property, but a resource for the whole community. Tree canopy coverage for single-family zones was calculated at 47% – a great number, and we want to keep it that way!

The new rules under consideration would allow the removal of up to four trees in a 36-month period (depending on the size of the tree) from a single-family property without a requirement to replace the trees. If more than four trees are removed, tree replacement is required. Replacement should occur on-site. If space is not available, payment can be made into the City's tree fund, and the City will find an appropriate place to plant. Another key proposed change is to prohibit clearing of trees from vacant properties until a development permit application is submitted to the City.

Tukwila's Tree and Environment Advisory Committee met last year to help shape the proposed rules, and passed along their recommended changes to the City's Planning Commission. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 25, 2018, making changes to the regulations before sending the proposed rules to the City Council for its review. Find more information about the proposed changes at [TukwilaWA.gov/Tree Regs](http://TukwilaWA.gov/Tree Regs). You can also contact Carol Lumb at 206-431-3661 or email [Carol.Lumb@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Carol.Lumb@TukwilaWA.gov).

### Become a Tukwila Community Connector

Do you live, work or attend school in Tukwila? Are you interested in learning more about how the City of Tukwila works? Do you want to partner with the City to build relationships and improve communication between the City and your community? If yes, we want to hear from you! We are now accepting applications for Community Connectors in Tukwila. Visit [TukwilaWA.gov/CommunityConnectors](http://TukwilaWA.gov/CommunityConnectors) for more information and to download an application. You can also contact Community Engagement Manager Mia Navarro at 206-406-6692 or email [Mia.Navarro@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Mia.Navarro@TukwilaWA.gov).

The Tukwila Community Connectors Program began in 2013. Its purpose is to improve outreach and engagement with communities historically underrepresented in the civic process and in decisions that impact their community. The City partners with members from these communities to act as liaisons and facilitate communication between the City and their community. Connectors are residents of all ages and backgrounds, who have a commitment to facilitate outreach and communications, and provide guidance to City staff on



how to design and undertake comprehensive and effective outreach. By building stronger relationships with the broad range of communities represented in Tukwila, the City continues toward the vision of ensuring that all residents have equal access to opportunities and services. The City of Tukwila partners with Global to Local and Forterra to implement this program.

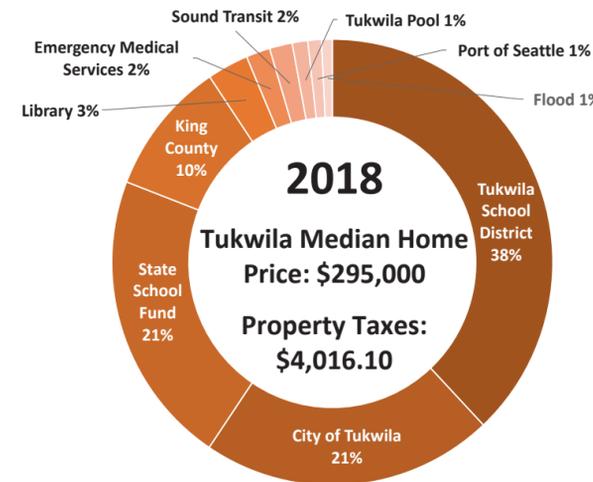


### Tukwila scholarship application now available

Tukwila's City of Opportunity Scholarship Program was established in 2014. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to high school students that reside in Tukwila to support undergraduate study in community colleges, colleges, trade schools and universities. Selection criteria include but are not limited to academic accomplishments, community service, references, financial need, and personal essay. Eligibility criteria are listed on the application.

The deadline to submit scholarship applications is March 30, 2018. You can download the scholarship application from the City's website at [TukwilaWA.gov](http://TukwilaWA.gov); just search or "Scholarship."

For more information or to request a copy of the application, contact Community Engagement Manager Mia Navarro at 206-454-7564, or email [Mia.Navarro@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Mia.Navarro@TukwilaWA.gov).



### Tukwila property taxes – where does your money go?

Property taxes in Tukwila and across King County will increase about 17% on average this year. In Tukwila, the median home price increased from \$259,000 in 2017 to \$295,000 in 2018. The 2018 property taxes for a \$295,000 home are \$4,016.10. See the chart above for a breakdown of where your property taxes go.

The increase in 2018 is primarily due to additional taxes passed by the Washington State Legislature to increase funding for K–12 education. (This is known as the McCleary Plan.) Previously, the State Supreme Court ruled that the State must make new investments into public education; as a result, the legislature added \$1.01 per thousand dollars of assessed value to their portion of property tax collection in King County, in order to fund the mandate.

Low-income seniors, veterans and disabled homeowners may qualify for a property-tax exemption offered by King County. Under the exemption program, the value of your Washington State residence is frozen for property tax purposes, and you become exempt from all excess and special levies and possibly regular levies, resulting in a reduction in your property taxes. Information on eligibility criteria and how to apply for an exemption, along with other property-assessment-related information, can be found at [KingCounty.gov/assessor](http://KingCounty.gov/assessor).



by Verna Seal, 2018 Council President



### New ways to meet your Council

I'm pleased to announce that the Tukwila City Council is changing up its approach for community engagement this year. In an effort to reach more community members and engage with you in new ways, the Council is replacing its monthly one-on-one Council Chats with quarterly activities throughout 2018.

You'll have opportunities to meet with multiple Councilmembers in dynamic settings. We will be hosting a spring Bike Ride, participating in events at our schools, offering a Kids and Council night at the Community Center, and as Council President, I will be leading a Book Club event at the Tukwila Library. Watch the City website for information as dates are finalized, or call 206-433-8993 to be notified. The City Council wants to hear from its community and we're always listening. You can contact any individual Councilmember at any time, or reach the entire Council by providing public comment or emailing [CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:CityCouncil@TukwilaWA.gov).

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. Yes, I am a City Councilmember, but I also work during the day for a law firm. I'm an Immigration Paralegal and have been working in this field for the last 21 years, having been with my firm for the last 23 years. I started working in a law firm when I was 19 years old and worked my way through college. With the exception of working for two years at a small independent oil company, I've worked in a law firm that entire time. Prior to working in immigration law, I did corporate transaction work for years.

I love taking advantage of one of the awesome perks we have in Tukwila in that I commute to downtown Seattle by Light Rail.

An avid lifelong reader, I'm a member of the Tukwila Library Advisory Board and also involved with the Friends of the Tukwila Library group. I sit on the National League of Cities Youth, Education and Families council, and volunteer my time with OneAmerica working at Citizenship Clinics.

A little bit about my personal life is that I'm married to Carl Wagner who works for Macy's Logistics Center right here in Tukwila. I have three children, a stepson, and an amazing daughter-in-law. Three of them graduated from Foster High School and have gone off to college and other exciting adventures. I also have two amazing beagles and a grandkitten.

I am proud of the work the Tukwila City Council has done over the past 12 years. When I decided to run 12 years ago, my tagline was "I believe in Tukwila." I still believe in Tukwila, and look forward to the coming years as we move forward as a community and continue to do great things!

### Take the Survey!

Sound Transit and King County Metro are looking for public comments on the potential for solo driving permits, as well as proposed pricing options for permit parking. Ultimately, these comments could lead to changes at Tukwila International Boulevard Station and potentially the Metro-operated park-and-ride lot on Interurban Avenue. The Tukwila community is encouraged to take the survey and/or participate in one of the scheduled neighborhood drop-in sessions. The survey closes March 31, 2018. For more information on the survey and in-person opportunities, please visit [TukwilaWA.gov/TransitSurvey](http://TukwilaWA.gov/TransitSurvey).