



TUKWILA CITY PAGES

The City of Opportunity
The Community of Choice

Mayor's Message

Pursuing equity for all members of our community



As Mayor, I am proud to live in Tukwila, one of the most diverse cities in the state of Washington. We have a rich history of being a gathering place for many different groups in this region, including Native Americans, early pioneer settlers, booming businesses, and newly-arrived immigrant and refugee families that now call America home.

While we celebrate Tukwila, we recognize that many in our community do not have equitable access to services, government, education, employment and other channels toward a better future. We recognize the role that government can play in breaking down barriers that block equitable access to opportunities. The City's Strategic Plan, adopted in 2012, provides us the guideposts for our work on behalf of our residents, businesses and guests, and emphasizes partnerships and collaboration. One of the goals – *A Solid Foundation for All Tukwila Residents* – clearly calls for equitable access to opportunity for Tukwila residents.

We recognize that societal, environmental and legal factors, both historic and present-day, have resulted in inequitable access to opportunities and services for some individuals and groups of people. Factors include but are not limited to:

- ▼ Age
- ▼ Physical and/or Cognitive Disability
- ▼ Economic Status
- ▼ Gender
- ▼ National Origin/Language
- ▼ Race and/or Ethnicity
- ▼ Religion
- ▼ Sexual Orientation

Over the course of 2017, the City has been hard at work developing an Equity Policy to provide

guidance to City elected officials, staff, boards and commissions, partners, residents, businesses and guests on how the City of Tukwila will actively promote equitable access to opportunities and services in our city. The Policy identifies the following six goals:

1. Our City workforce reflects our community.
2. Community outreach and engagement is relevant, intentional, inclusive, consistent and ongoing.
3. All residents and visitors receive equitable delivery of City services.
4. City government is committed to equity in the decision-making process.
5. Equity serves as a core value for all long-term plans moving forward.
6. The City will build capacity around equity within City government and the broader community.

On August 28 the draft Policy was presented to Tukwila's City Council. The full policy can be found online at TukwilaWA.gov/EquityPolicy.

Over the next few weeks, all City staff will have an opportunity to discuss the policy. We expect the final policy to be approved by Council before the end of the year.

Though the City has made many strides toward equity, we fully acknowledge we have more work to do. I look forward to collaborating with Council, staff, residents, businesses and other partners in this work.

Allan Ekberg
Allan Ekberg, Mayor



Input needed on Tukwila tree regulations

The City of Tukwila is reviewing zoning code regulations that govern trees in the community. This code review is to implement Comprehensive Plan goals and policies on landscaping and trees that were adopted in 2013 and 2014. Among the new goals and policies are those that promote the increase City-wide of tree canopy and tree retention. Possible revisions to the zoning code may include: when and where trees can be removed; required tree protection

during development; retention of trees in the forests in our parks; and proper tree care.

If you have an interest in trees and our urban forest – whether you own a business or live or work in Tukwila – and wish to have input on these issues, contact Carol Lumb in the Department of Community Development at 206-431-3661, or Carol.Lumb@TukwilaWA.gov.

Members of Tukwila Fire Department deployed to assist with recent disaster events

Four members of the Tukwila Fire Department were deployed to Texas to help with rescue and recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Harvey. Captains Pat McCoy, Mark Morales and Andy Nevens, and Firefighter Pat O'Brien went on the initial deployment. All four of these men have served in other disasters around the country including Katrina, the Oso Mud Slide, and other hurricanes.

Captain Morales, Firefighter O'Brien and Captain Nevens (pictured) were all assigned to a "Swift Water Team" that is assigned to be in the water, moving equipment, rescuing stranded residents and searching buildings that are dangerously flooded. All three have specialized training for working in dangerous water conditions like this.



Captain Pat McCoy was deployed on a different mission in Texas as part of a Disaster Medical Assistance Team. This specialized medical team is commonly assigned to the larger shelters, setting up a medical clinic to support medical needs of the victims there.

On the way back to Tukwila from Texas, the team was called again and turned around in Richland, WA to head to Robins Air Force Base in Georgia for staging to assist with rescue and recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Irma. In addition, Firefighters Merle Brooks and Aaron Johnson were also deployed to assist with swift water rescue in association with the Irma response.

The City Administration, Fire Department and the families of our responders have shown their support for our members who are willing to go into dangerous conditions and serve others in need. Tukwila's costs are reimbursed by the federal government through FEMA.



MAYOR: Allan Ekberg

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dennis Robertson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: • Joe Duffie • Verna Seal • Kathy Hougardy • De'Sean Quinn • Kate Kruller • Thomas McLeod

Are you ready? **October 7 – SocktoberFest 5k** **October 26 – Autumn Harvest Carnival** – and so much more!
Fall fitness classes, sports programs, nutrition education, special interests and special events for all ages!
You'll find lots of Good Healthy Fun in the fall 2017 Tukwila Activities Guide: TukwilaWA.gov/ActivitiesGuide

New landscape ordinance now in effect

As autumn approaches, many commercial and industrial property owners and managers are preparing to spruce up landscaping on their properties. Before deciding to remove a shrub, prune a tree or make other alterations, become familiar with Tukwila's new Landscape Code – Ordinance 2523 adopted March 6, 2017 – to avoid non-conforming landscaping. Find it here: TukwilaWA.gov/LandscapeOrdinance

New development of property in Tukwila includes required landscaping installation. All industrial, commercial, office and multi-family property owners and managers should be aware that City regulations require that the landscaping on their site be maintained in a healthy condition for the life of the project. You can always update or change an existing landscape, but you will likely need a permit to do so. To find out whether a permit is required, contact the Department of Community Development at 206-431-3670 before starting work.

As was the case in the past, topping of trees is prohibited and will be considered removal, resulting in required tree replacement and possible fines. Topping is the practice of severely and indiscriminately cutting back or removing branches in trees, often leaving stubs. Trees are often topped to reduce their height to increase views, allow more sun into an area, or make the trees "safe". There are alternatives to topping to achieve these ends, which a tree professional can recommend.

Property owners or managers are responsible for hiring a reputable tree care company with arborists on their staff certified by the International Society of Arborists (ISA). These professionals have the experience and knowledge to prune and care for your plants correctly, leading to healthier, more attractive, longer-lived landscapes that ultimately save money. Make sure an ISA Certified Arborist is pruning your trees; ask for his or her ISA number if you aren't sure. Need help selecting a certified Arborist? Visit PNWISA.org and click on "Find an Arborist" at the top of the page to see listings of local certified arborists for your job.

Healthy landscapes provide many benefits to both a single property and to the whole community. Trees and landscaping reduce stress, decrease stormwater runoff and pollution, provide shade in sunny weather to cool buildings and parking areas, and add monetary value to the property. The City looks forward to working with property owners and tenants to protect this important resource and keep Tukwila green.



Public input gathered on preferred BNSF access route

The City of Tukwila has identified a potential new route for trucks to access the BNSF Railway intermodal yard in Allentown. The preferred route would have trucks travel on 48th Avenue South and across a new bridge over the Duwamish River. Trucks currently access the yard in Allentown via 42nd Avenue South and South 124th Street, which runs in front of the Tukwila Community Center.



Residents of the Allentown and Duwamish neighborhoods, as well as local businesses, were invited to attend an open house in August to learn more about the preferred alternative, including how the City used public input and broad screening criteria to choose this route over several other potential alternatives. Those who could not attend the in-person open house had the opportunity to participate through an online open house.

The next step is to present the preferred alternative route to the City Council for approval. If the route is approved, the City will seek State and federal funding for design, construction and further environmental review.

The City has considered the potential for moving the access route before. Recently, the City partnered with BNSF Railway to study the feasibility of alternative routes in earnest by engaging the community and evaluating potential routes given current conditions and broad screening criteria.

The preferred route and other project information is available to the public on the project website: TukwilaWA.gov/BNSFAccessStudyProject.html.

COUNCIL CORNER



by Kathy Hougardy, Councilmember

A fellow councilmember once remarked, "If you're not at the table, you are on the menu." We were discussing a decision made by a regional board that could have a negative impact on the City of Tukwila, which was not represented in the group.

Fortunately, the City successfully intervened in time to avoid any problems. While "being at the table" isn't always necessary to achieve positive results for your city, it can be an important factor. This is one of the reasons we as Councilmembers work together to represent Tukwila in a variety of outside committees and organizations. Some of the benefits of this regional representation – along with my personal examples – follow.

Influence and Advocacy – As a member of the King County Regional Transit Committee, I have the opportunity to give direct input into King County Metro's short- and long-term policy decisions, expressing our priorities and concerns.

Collaboration – In Soundside for Economic Development, which I've chaired for several years, we look at ways to help and attract businesses both large and small in our south-end cities. The High-line Forum, which I co-chair, currently looks at issues involving the Port and includes discussion of how the Port can minimize impacts and maximize benefits. King County's South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBD) consists of south-end cities collaborating on advocacy for transportation issues affecting the region.

Networking and Information exchange – You never know when a piece of information will present itself that can transform a situation. The City often looks at other jurisdictions for policies on how to handle the myriad of items that come up in our city. Councilmembers have returned from meetings and conferences with ideas that are innovative or have changed how we approach a challenge. Sound Cities Association (SCA), the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), and the National League of Cities (NLC) present opportunities for information exchange for city administrative leadership and elected officials alike.

Professional Growth – AWC provides critical training to help elected officials better serve their communities. This training includes important updates in State law, such as the Open Public Meetings and the Public Records Acts. Several times a year I attend meetings of the AWC Education Committee where we discuss potential seminars and programs that could be offered.

In reality, every outside board and committee presents some degree of opportunity in each of the areas listed above. Thank you for your support as we endeavor to represent you.



Speak with a Councilmember about what's on your mind! Let's get together to talk at the Tukwila Library 14380 Tukwila International Blvd.

Next Chat: Sat., October 14

10:00AM to 12:00 NOON