



AIA Southwest Washington

January 24, 2012

Tacoma City Council Members
c/o Community and Economic Department
747 Market Street, Room 1036
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Council Members:

Re: Comments Regarding Downtown Off-Street Parking Regulation
From: AIA Southwest Washington Committee on Community Advocacy

The AIA Southwest Washington Committee on Community Advocacy, on behalf of our greater chapter membership, supports efforts of the Planning Commission's proposed amendment regarding downtown off-street parking regulations.

Back in 2008 when the City of Tacoma revisited the development standard for mixed use centers and proposed design review program, AIA Southwest Washington submitted its recommendations to the Planning Commission which include supporting the elimination of City-required off-street parking in the mixed use urban centers (see attached letter dated April 10, 2008). Subsequently, the AIA Southwest Washington was invited to present these recommendations to the Planning Commission which eventually led to the implementation of parking changes in the International Financial Services Areas.

We are delighted to learn of the Planning Commission's efforts to expand this implementation to a larger area within the Downtown Commercial Core. We support the Planning Commission's recommendations presented in the November 2, 2011 letter to the Council. We believe these efforts will help to create a more vibrant downtown by encouraging both large and small scale, market-driven developments, while reducing the negative impacts that surface lots have on goals of higher density and pedestrian environments. As a result, the City of Tacoma will foster fair and democratic opportunities for all developers, including its own citizens, to make the city more livable.

Our recommendations are rooted in our mission of "*advocating for principles of livability and sustainability within the communities of our chapter*". We seek to provide a trusted voice regarding design within our communities, generally advocating within the framework of AIA's "10 Principles for Livable Communities" (a document we previously provided and which is currently included on the City's web site). Parking is only one of many components affecting Livable Communities. Our hope is to see other components adopted by the City as the next agenda for its planning efforts.

AIA Southwest Washington cares about the future of the City of Tacoma and we are committed to contributing towards goals of Livable Communities. We are also committed to be the City's trusted resource for urban planning and design and look forward to working together with the Planning Commission and the City Council. Feel free to contact Randy Cook, Tacoma/Pierce County Advocacy Chair, or Ko Wibowo, AIASWW President, if you have any questions.



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Thank you,

AIA Southwest Washington Committee on Community Advocacy

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is "Randy Cook" and the signature on the right is "Ko Wibowo". Both signatures are followed by a horizontal line.

Randy Cook, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Tacoma/Pierce County Advocacy Committee Chair

Ko Wibowo, AIA, LEED AP
AIASWW President