

# COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 10/17/2019

**DATE:** October 11, 2019

**TO:** Port Commission

**FROM:** Eric Johnson, Port of Tacoma Executive Director  
Sponsor: Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager  
Presenter: Tom Pierson, President and CEO Tacoma Pierce County Chamber  
Mike Fowler, Senior Trade Consultant for WTCT

**SUBJECT:** World Trade Center Tacoma Briefing

## A. BRIEFING ITEM

This presentation is intended to provide the Commission with an update on the World Trade Center Tacoma prior to action on the 2020 budget. No action is requested of the Commission at this time.

## B. BACKGROUND

The Port of Tacoma purchased the franchise license for the World Trade Center Tacoma (WTCT) in 1979, and continues to work closely with the WTCT on the shared goal of promoting international trade in the south Puget Sound area. The World Trade Center Tacoma's mission is to help grow trade by providing assistance in trade research, providing targeted trade counseling and by connecting its members with local and global partners.

The Port's Local Economic Development Policy authorizes the Port to enter into contracts between the Port and federally-registered non-profit organizations that seek to promote Washington-state based international trade or business retention and recruitment efforts in Pierce County. The Port's contract with the World Trade Center of Tacoma is one example of this.

In February 2017, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber expressed interest in contracting for the management of the WTCT. The proposal was accepted by the WTCT Board and the Executive Committee negotiated and executed a management agreement with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber.

## C. NEXT STEPS

If the 2020 budget includes funding support for the WTCT, a professional services agreement will be prepared and executed between the Port and the WTCT Executive Committee.