

ACTION ITEM MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 7B
Meeting Date: 8/20/24

DATE: August 12, 2024
TO: Port of Tacoma Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Government Relations Director
Project Manager: Judi Doremus, Executive Dept EA
SUBJECT: Proclamation 2024-06-PT: Honoring Bruce Kendall upon his Retirement

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request approval of Proclamation 2024-06-PT, which honors Bruce Kendall, the Tacoma-Pierce County Economic Development Board (EDB) CEO upon his retirement at the end of 2024.

Strategic Plan Initiatives:

- EV-4:** Partner with regional organizations to facilitate career development and business growth in Pierce County.
- CC-1:** Strengthen, build, and maintain relationships with a wide variety of public, community, and business stakeholders through direct engagement.

B. BACKGROUND

The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County is a nonprofit economic development organization focused on helping current and future Tacoma and Pierce County businesses create new jobs and grow the economy of the South Sound. Their work with companies has brought more than \$1.6 billion in capital investments and over 25,000 jobs to the region over the past two decades.

Bruce Kendall has served as the EDB's CEO for 25 years and has been an exceptional partner to the Port of Tacoma. His leadership has been instrumental in protecting our working waterfront, which accounts for more than 42,100 jobs and nearly \$3 billion in economic activity, benefitting the entire state of Washington's economy. He has partnered with the Port of Tacoma on projects and policies large and small, including the long-awaited completion of Highway 167. He has been an indispensable advocate to elected officials and policy makers regarding the importance of investments in infrastructure and tax policy that affect economic development.

C. NEXT STEPS

After an illustrious economic development career, Bruce Kendall will be retiring at the end of this year. The Port of Tacoma Commission and staff would like to honor all of his hard work and dedication through Proclamation 2024-06-PT. He will, indeed, leave very large shoes to fill and we are grateful for his leadership over the last quarter of a century.