

Tim Burgess Council Career Accomplishments

Select Highlights

2008 - 2017

- **Led the push** for high-quality, voluntary, and affordable **preschool** for Seattle's youngest learners that received overwhelming voter support and will make a profound difference in the lives of Seattle's children and families.
- **Helped hire an exceptional new police chief** committed to reform and protecting our safety and property, while continuing a strong push for increased accountability and transparency in our police department.
- **Authored legislation giving the police chief new authority to hire** the best commanders possible *from outside or inside* the police department, erasing a 35-year-old ban on outside hiring.
- **Sponsored a path-breaking, phased-in \$15 minimum wage** that counters the income inequities that threaten our lowest-wage workers.
- **Wrote legislation adopted by the Council requiring the City Auditor to produce a biennial report on the City's financial and economic conditions** to improve financial decision-making and growth management.
- **Wrote the Chronic Nuisance Property Law** that gave the city more power to shut down drug houses, motels, and other properties that were magnets of crime and disorder.
- **Key Council negotiator for the final Paid Sick and Safe Leave Act** that provides all workers citywide with the ability to care for themselves and their families.
- **Led the effort to fully fund the Nurse Family Partnership**, an evidence-based home visitation program for low-income, first-time moms, making Seattle the fourth major U.S. city to fully fund this proven, highly successful program.
- **Wrote the city's Wage Theft Law** to protect workers from dishonest employers.
- **Raised more than \$1 million in donations** from the public, plus \$150,000 in city government funds, to open only the fourth **residential safe haven** in the nation for the care of **prostituted children**, some as young as 13 and 14 years of age.
- **Provided key support to the city's new Rental Housing Inspection legislation**, protecting renters from unscrupulous landlords. **Authored legislation establishing the Seattle Renters' Commission**, providing renters a more formal voice at City Hall.
- **Led the effort to fund the first city-focused gun violence injury study** in the U.S. at the UW and Harborview Medical Center, a study that has now been published in a peer-review journal; such studies have been blocked at the federal level for decades by the NRA. The research documented the huge impact gun violence has on the health

system and recommended steps to reduce gun violence.

- **Authored the gun violence tax on firearms and ammunition sold in the city** and dedicated the tax proceeds to public safety programs.
- **Led the effort to establish and fund the city's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.** Co-Sponsored a budget amendment to dedicate \$1 million to provide civil legal assistance to persons appearing before the federal immigration courts.
- **Requested an audit of rental housing practices** in the city, resulting in findings of widespread discrimination toward African Americans and people with disabilities, and the filing of civil charges against six property owners.
- **Persuaded the City Council to adopt strong outcome-based contracting requirements for city services,** increased accountability, transparency, and measurement of program effectiveness and competitive award of city service contracts.
- **Added funds to the City budget to increase summer literacy programs for children in kindergarten, first, and second grades in high-need elementary schools** to reverse the summer slump in reading ability.
- **Sponsored legislation to lower speed limits on city streets** as part of the Vision Zero initiative.
- **Led the Council's effort to double the Seattle Housing Levy** to preserve and provide more low-income, affordable housing.
- **Prime sponsor of the city's Sweetened Beverage Tax ordinance** with the proceeds to be spent on increasing access to health, affordable food and nutrition education and support for birth-to-five programs.
- **Sponsored legislation to regulate and tax Short-term Rentals in the City of Seattle.**