



Olympia City Council Referral Request

Referral Number	2016-0003NJ
Date of Referral	7/12/16
Originator	Nathaniel Jones, Mayor Pro Tem
Referral To	General Government Committee
Request	<p>Enrollment in higher education has been declining. Olympia’s young adults have less access to vocational training and career development opportunities today than in the past. These changes are not the result of inadequate services; rather, they are the result of changes in how we pay for education. All too often, the current system leaves our young adults with a large and unprecedented debt burden.</p> <p>More than ever, workforce development is critical to the local economy, yet public policy has made it more difficult for young workers to develop skills and achieve success. For years, more and more of the cost of education has been shunted onto the student and away from other sources.</p> <p>Our community is debating the appropriate local response, including whether a response is warranted. This referral seeks to define the impact of poor access to education on local residents and on the local economy.</p> <p>Because consideration of these consequences is a new for the City, the committee is advised to draw upon expert analysis.</p> <p>The committee is asked to develop a project plan, to provide progress reporting and to deliver a final report within one year.</p> <p>The findings of this work will inform the Council’s engagement with the community and the use of its authority to respond.</p>
Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the referral2. Modify the referral3. Decline the referral
Timing	Report completed within one year.
Attachments	None

*Numbering consist of current year-3digitnumber- requesting Councilmember’s initials.
(e.g., 2016-003CS = third referral in 2016, requested by Mayor Cheryl Selby)

