

From: Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 4:14 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: written comment - tonight's city council meeting
Attachments: Written comment - Resistencia - 2 June.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi -
Attached please find our written comment for tonight's council meeting, with Spanish language originals of some comments (previous email only included the translations into English).

Thanks,
La Resistencia

La Resistencia
PO Box 31202
Seattle, WA 98103
[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

On Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 4:02 PM Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com> wrote:

Attached, please find written comment for the 2 June 2020 City Council meeting.

Thank you,

La Resistencia
PO Box 31202
Seattle, WA 98103
[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Written comment – Tacoma City Council

June 2, 2020

From: Leah Montange, Maru Mora Villalpando, ShaCorrie Tunkara for La Resistencia

Today the city is voting on a resolution “affirming the City’s commitment to equity, justice, and fairness in its response to the novel Coronavirus; affirming that the City intends to utilize its resources, platforms, and authority to identify and work to address the ways that COVID-19 is exacerbating existing inequities in our communities; and reaffirming the City’s commitment to anti-discrimination in communications related to COVID-19.” This is a laudable resolution, and we know that many members of the undocumented community and people whose primary language is not English have experienced barriers. We write today to remind the council not to forget at this time that people inside the NWDC are in the Tacoma community. The city’s commitment to equity, justice, and fairness must include all who are detained at NWDC.

Two weeks ago we wrote to Mayor Woodards and all the City Council members urging that the city pass a resolution in support of people detained at the NWDC, that would direct Tacoma Public Health to expand testing capacity in the detention center, and that would call for releases of all who are detained there, as social distancing is not possible there. We have attached that email to these comments, and reaffirm this request.

We have also attached to this comment a set of two more comments, handwritten in Spanish with typed English translations, that came from women whose partners are detained at the NWDC. The detention center has made them into single mothers here in Washington. Both are very worried not only for their own wellbeing, but for their partners who are sick and vulnerable to COVID-19. They call for their loved ones and for everyone at NWDC to be released, and for more testing at NWDC in the meantime.



Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com>

NWDC and COVID-19

Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com>

Thu, May 14, 2020 at 11:36 AM

To: "Woodards, Victoria" <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>, keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org, robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org, skaauamo@cityoftacoma.org, lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org, john.hines@cityoftacoma.org, "Ushka, Catherine" <catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org>, chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org, "Walker, Kristina" <kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org>, conor.mccarthy@cityoftacoma.org
Cc: anita.gallagher@cityoftacoma.org, citymanager@cityoftacoma.org, jefferson.mok@gmail.com

To Tacoma City Councilmembers and Mayor Woodards:

We write to you today to build on conversations we have been having over the past several years in Tacoma's Planning Commission, Committee on Community Vitality and Safety, and Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Today is a national day of action in the Free Them All campaign coordinated by Detention Watch Network. This campaign targets local lawmakers to ask for their support in demanding that ICE release people from detention in this time of the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for the attention that the City of Tacoma has already given to this issue: on April 24, Tacoma's City Council sent a letter to ICE calling for the release of some people detained at NWDC during this time of crisis. The letter called for the release of residents of Washington who are held for non-criminal reasons at NWDC. ICE has the power and authority to parole or assign bond to everyone inside their detention system. We urge them to use this power and authority to free *everyone*. We urge you, in your future letters and consultations with ICE to push for all those detained to be freed.

While we may discriminate, we know that Covid-19 does not and places the lives of everyone held in close quarters at risk. We oppose the idea that people who have a criminal conviction must remain in detention and become exposed to the virus. We urge you to reconsider the boundaries that you have placed around who should be freed from ICE detention at this time. ICE has proven to be [careless](#) with the lives of people in their custody time and again. Most recently, a person with a [positive COVID-19 test](#) was transferred to NWDC on Tuesday, May 5. People in the detention center continue to protest that social distancing is not possible and that safety protocols are inconsistently implemented (see attached photo of people detained at NWDC spelling out SOS during their recreation time in mid-April).

According to a federal judge, ICE has violated detainee rights at the NWDC for failing to remedy living conditions where Covid-19 can "spread like wildfire." We note that the judge ordered the petitioner's release -- even though he had a criminal conviction. This is because [prisons and jails](#) across the United States have become epicenters of the disease, which gets introduced by guards and staff from outside and then rapidly spreads through the confined population. This is why places like [Spain](#) have released everyone from their immigration detention system. As we are sure some of you are fully aware, as of this morning there were 943 infections in [ICE's detention system](#), and more than half of those tested in ICE's system had positive tests.

We invite the Tacoma City Council to pass a [resolution](#) that supports people detained at the NWDC, calls for their timely release, and calls for widespread testing. This resolution is a commitment to the health and safety of all Tacoma residents -- both those detained and free. We invite you to discuss this matter with us at your soonest convenience.

Sincerely,

Maru Mora Villalpando, ShaCorrie Tunkara, Leah Montange, Kelsen Caldwell for La Resistencia

La Resistencia

PO Box 31202

Seattle, WA 98103

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



sos.jpg
52K

2 June 2020

Hello! My name is María Nuñez and my husband Julio León has been detained at the Tacoma center for one year.

Ever since my children and I have suffered economically and emotionally. For me its been very difficult to sustain my family, due to me having a 10 year old with Downs Syndrom and needing special care, and also a 15 year old daughter who has been receiving emotional support (counseling) ever since because it has impacted her a lot to not have her father at her side. And now with the COVID 19, we are very worried because my husband could die in that place, because he is a vulnerable person due to his diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure that he suffers from. Please, we need your support now that ICE has devlined to my husband the right to leave on bond. ICE denied my husband bond and is putting his life in danger. Ever since my husband came to that place, his medical condition has gotten worse because there they don't receive nutrition or medical attention that they require.

We need your support so that ICE frees everyone. These people that find themselves in the detention center where ICE does not comply with medical and santiation standards, or social distancing.

We need that the health department in Tacoma does COVID 19 tests for everyone in the center. We also ask that you work with state legislators to close the Tacoma detention center, and end the suffering of all the families.

Thank you for your support and God Bless. Thank you.

• Hola! mi nombre es maria ruiñez
y mi esposo julio leon se encuentra
detenido en el centro de tacoma
ya por un año.

desde entonces mis hijos y yo hemos
sufrido mucho económicamente y
emocionalmente. ya que para mi

a sido muy difícil poder sostentar
a mi familia, debido a que tengo
un hijo de 10 años con síndrome
de down y necesita de cuidados

especiales, también tengo una
niña de 15 años y desde entonces
a estado Recibiendo ayuda emocional
por que le a afectado mucho a no

tener a su papa a su lado y ahora
con el covid 19 estamos muy preocupados
por que mi esposo puede morir en
ese lugar, ya que el es una persona

vulnerable debido a su diabetes,
colesterol alto y la presión que

el padece por favor necesitamos
de su apoyo ya que ICE le a negado
a mi esposo el derecho de salir
bajo fianza al negarle ICE

salir a mi esposo bajo fianza

esta poniendo su vida en peligro
y desde que mi esposo llegó a ese
lugar su condición médica a ido
empiorando porque ahí no recibe
la alimentación ni la atención
medica que se requiere
necesitamos de su apoyo para que
ICE libere a todas esas personas
que se encuentran en ese lugar
detenidas ya que ICE no cumple
con las medidas sanitarias, ni el
distanciamiento social
necesitamos que el departamento
de salud de tacoma les aga la
prueba del covid 19 a todas las
personas que se encuentran ahí
tambien pedimos la ayuda de la legislatura
del estado para que cierre ese lugar
del centro de detención en tacoma
y termine con tanto sufrimiento
de tantas familias
gracias por su apoyo y quedos
los vendiga gracias.

2 June 2020

My name is Emma. At this time, ICE has forced me to be a single mother of six, four of whom live with me. Two are at university in California.

On July 23, 2019 my partner Rene R. Ramirez was detained by ICE at his business. A client. For not paying to fix his car. Rene is a mechanic. This person called ICE. From this tragic day, my life and the life of my children has become a heavy weight. Before Rene came into our life, my children and I survived domestic violence in different situations, until I became a single mother of 5 kids. Three years later, Rene came along and became the father of them, and then came my smallest child. Alexander. Finally, I had a home and the family I always dreamed of. Because from a litter girl, I grew up in the streets and at 14 years old I was kidnapped and abused in Mexico. Never before had anyone give me the stability and security that Rene gives my children and I. We are all suffering because Rene is not at home. Denise, 15 years old, has suicidal thoughts. Saul, 11, cries desperately and says that sometimes he wants to drink bleach and not live, because life is so hard without his father, like he says to Rene. Most difficult is that my baby Alexander cries in the corner, hiding so that I don't see. He says to his sisters that he doesn't want me to see, so that I don't cry.

We feel a lot of fear of not being reunited with Rene, because he is sick and not receiving adequate treatment. When ICE detained him, he already had medical problems, since childhood he was asthmatic. He has an illness of the [prostate? Hard to read]. He had an appointment for tests on July 25, 2019. But he was detained by ICE on July 23, 2019. In this time, Rene has gotten worse. How, with the COVID 19, we are more afraid that he could die. ICE lies a lot. This makes me feel powerless because people believe everything they say, and not us. I ask you please that the Health department makes itself present in the detention center in Tacoma, to see that they don't have health care, nor social distancing that they should have. They demand that we stay at home and close business. And them? The people who are detained by ICE. They aren't at home. Isn't the Tacoma detention center a business? Then why isn't it closed? The people detained there are also human beings that are suffering from fear of dying and not being about to return to their families. Rene is desperate because every time you feel bad, you go to the medical unit and you are told that you don't have anything, that you aren't going to die. They give you packets of salt as a cure. Right now there is a lot of flu.

On Saturday 30 May, he told the psychologist at the center that he is desperate because they don't do anything to help him get better. He told them that for a few days he had flu and a cough and they didn't do a test for COVID 19 and they haven't done it. To this, the psychologist responded that in the computer it said that they had done the test four times. Rene responded that this isn't true. That they hadn't done the test even once, that ICE is lying about this and many other things. Rene called me as soon as he could to tell me this, and minutes later the psychologist returned to call to say that there was a computer error where it had said that they had done the tests.

Every day, I ask God to return Rene and to be a happy family. This nightmare and pain that the separation causes us as mothers, that we have to struggle alone every day, with the great responsibility and sadness to see how our children suffer. Because their father isn't there.

5-31-2020

2

MI nombre es Emma, en este momento ICE me a Forzado a ser madre soltera de 6, 4 aún viven conmigo. 2 están en la universidad en California, el 7-22-2019 mi Pareja Rene R Ramirez Fue detenido Por ICE en su negocio un cliente. Por no pagarle el arreglo de su carro, Rene es mecánico, esa persona llamo a ICE, desde ese día tan tragico Para nosotros, mi vida + la de mis hijos. Se volvió a convertir en una Pesadilla, antes que Rene llegara a nuestras vidas, mis hijos + lo vivimos Violencia Domestica en varias ocasiones, hasta que me convertí en madre soltera de 6 niños, 3 años despues Rene llego Para convertirse en el Padre de ellos, despues llego nuestro hijo más pequeño. Alexander cuando al fin lo tenia el hogar y una familia que siempre soñe Porque desde niña me creí sola en las calles. a los 14 años fui ~~secue~~ secuestrada + abusada en Mexico, nunca antes nadie me habia dado la estabilidad + seguridad que

Rene nos da a mis hijos y a mi, todos estamos sufriendo porque Rene no está en casa. Denise de 15 años tiene pensamientos suicidas, Saúl de 11, llora con desesperación y dice que a veces quiere tomar bleach para no vivir. Porque la vida es muy difícil sin su Pa como el le dice a Rene, eso hace más difícil la situación mi bebe Alexander llora en las esquinas, se esconde para que to no lo vea, el le dice a sus hermanas que no quiere que mamá lo vea. Para que mamá no lllore, sentimos mucho miedo de no volver a vernos con Rene, porque el está enfermo, y no está recibiendo el tratamiento adecuado, cuando el fue detenido por ICE, ya tenía muchos problemas médicos desde niño a sido asmático, está enfermo de la Prostata, el tenía citas para hacerse estudios médicos el 7-25-2019. Pero fue detenido por ICE el 7-23-2019, en este tiempo Rene se empeoró, ahora con el Covid 19 tenemos más miedo

Que el Pueda Morir. ICE muere mucho, eso me hace sentir impotencia porque le creen todo a ellos + no a nosotros, Pido por favor que el departamento de salud haga presencia en el centro de detencion de Tacoma para que vean que no tienen las medidas de salud, ni el distanciamiento social que deben tener, a todos nos exigieron que nos quedaríamos en casa que cerraran los negocios + ellos? ~~Porque~~ los detenidos por ICE. Porque no están en casa, a caso el centro de detencion de Tacoma, no es un negocio? entonces porque no está cerrado? los detenidos también son seres humanos que están sufriendo por el miedo a morir + no volver a reunirse con sus familia, pene está desesperado porque cada vez que se siente mal va al medico + le dice que no tiene nada, que no va a morir, le dan bolsitas de Sal para que se cure, ahora mismo sigue con mucha gripe, el sábado 30 de mayo, el le coranto

a la psicóloga del centro, que está desesperado porque no hacen nada porque él se siente mejor de salud, le comento que hace varios días que está con gripe + tos, que no le han hecho la prueba del covid 19 + no se la han hecho, a lo que la psicóloga respondió, que ~~no~~ en la computadora dice que se la han hecho 4 veces, Rene le respondió que eso no es verdad, que no le han hecho ni una prueba, que ice a mentido en eso + muchas otras cosas, Rene en cuanto pudo me llamo para decirme esto, minutos después la psicóloga le volvió a llamar para decirle que era un error de la computadora donde decía que le habían hecho las pruebas. Todos los días le pido a Dios porque nos volvamos a reunir + ser felices que esta pesadilla + dolor que esta separación nos causa a nosotras como madres debemos llevar solas todos los días con una gran responsabilidad, + tristeza por ver cómo nuestras hijas sufren, porque no está papá.

From: Resistencia Northwest <resistenciasolidarity@gmail.com>
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Thank you,

La Resistencia

PO Box 31202

Seattle, WA 98103

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Written comment – Tacoma City Council

June 2, 2020

From: Leah Montange, Maru Mora Villalpando, ShaCorrie Tunkara for La Resistencia

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NWDC and COVID-19

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Thu, May 14, 2020 at 11:36 AM

To: "Woodards, Victoria" <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>, keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org, robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org, skaauamo@cityoftacoma.org, lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org, john.hines@cityoftacoma.org, "Ushka, Catherine" <catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org>, chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org, "Walker, Kristina" <kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org>, conor.mccarthy@cityoftacoma.org
Cc: anita.gallagher@cityoftacoma.org, citymanager@cityoftacoma.org, jefferson.mok@gmail.com

To Tacoma City Councilmembers and Mayor Woodards:

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sos.jpg
52K

2 June 2020

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We feel a lot of fear of not being reunited with Rene, because he is sick and not receiving adequate treatment. When ICE detained him, he already had medical problems, since childhood he was asthmatic. He has an illness of the [prostate? Hard to read]. He had an appointment for tests on July 25, 2019. But he was detained by ICE on July 23, 2019. In this time, Rene has gotten worse. How, with the COVID 19, we are more afraid that he could die. ICE lies a lot. This makes me feel powerless because people believe everything they say, and not us. I ask you please that the Health department makes itself present in the detention center in Tacoma, to see that they don't have health care, nor social distancing that they should have. They demand that we stay at home and close business. And them? The people who are detained by ICE. They aren't at home. Isn't the Tacoma detention center a business? Then why isn't it closed? The people detained there are also human beings that are suffering from fear of dying and not being about to return to their families. Rene is desperate because every time you feel bad, you go to the medical unit and you are told that you don't have anything, that you aren't going to die. They give you packets of salt as a cure. Right now there is a lot of flu.

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Every day, I ask God to return Rene and to be a happy family. This nightmare and pain that the separation causes us as mothers, that we have to struggle alone every day, with the great responsibility and sadness to see how our children suffer. Because their father isn't there.

From: David Bluhm <d_bluhm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria
Cc: Kaauamo, Samantha; Nowman (Emery), Nicole; City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina; Hunter, Lillian; Blackwell, Jeanette; pcsheriff@co.pierce.wa.us; Green, Tory
Subject: Re: Tideflats Interim Regulations and Resolution 40610 - Proclamation re Marginalized Communities and Inequities

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Clerk Sorum &/or Deputies, Mayor Woodards, and Council Members;

I realize Tideflats Interim Regulations is not on today's agenda. I submit this in the event that it is added as well as for submission on whatever date the final reading is/was/will be rescheduled.

Please send me a quick email with notification of when the Final Reading and/or Vote and/or Additional Readings and Hearings added.

Please skip to my last multi sentence paragraph in this email if Tideflats Interim Regulations will not be addressed nor voted upon today.

I urge you to submit amendments to those Interim Regulations that will restrict all development, construction and/or expansion for the next 6 months except for those exclusions I mention below, if not making those restrictions permanent while undertaking a monumental Puyallup River Estuary Restoration Project and relocating toxic and noxious business, industry and storage facilities off of the Port and tideflats to protect the public health. No less than 50 miles inland.

Please lock down all construction and expansion for all business and industry on and around the Tideflats EXCEPT for regular environmental monitoring and testing of water temperatures, air quality, land pollution, and clean up of Superfund and Brownfield sites. OR clean up of any toxic or noxious potentially public or sea life health degrading site, business and industry that could become a Superfund/Brownfield site in the future for these next 6 months. Better yet, permanently. Despite the threats and general clamor that business and industry and their support organizations that promote economic, business and industry growth at any cost, be it to marginalized peoples or all peoples in the vicinity, down and up current.

That professional, quality checked and triple verified environmental impact monitoring and testing, analysis and results must be performed by unbiased, independent organizations and individuals and published for public viewing and include lands, air and waters directly located at, directly adjacent to, down and up current of the Tideflats as well as other areas that have been known to be affected by the operations of business and industry on the Tideflats and Port.

Please pledge more financial and other resources to reclaiming lands from the Tideflats and Port to restore the Puyallup River Estuary that was destroyed to develop them. Please collaborate with the Puyallup Tribe on these matters.

Please use the absolute most current science to determine the global, cradle to grave effects of the expansion of those toxic and noxious industries including blast zones. The current projections used by Puget Sound Energy or the Liquified/Fracked Gas Facility have been disproven and are far from accurate in a bad way that will kill residents of Tacoma and Pierce County. I believe South King and Kitsap Counties too.

Please realize that Natural Liquified Gas and petroleum and other fossil fuel derived fuels and admixtures for manufacturing, business, industry or consumer direct are not bridges to a better way or better day. They simply must

stop being used as painful and inconvenient as that may be for a while.

Please trust that the technology and energy sources that quickly arise in place of those will be amazing and inspiring in a great way.

Please excuse me for my late submission today if tideflats will be on the agenda or added during the meeting under emergency declarations. I have been deeply distracted by the happenings of the past few days as related to George Floyd's death and am committed to supporting the elevation and amplify Black voices and their experiences.

Please.

Respectfully,

David Bluhm
98404

cc

Tacoma Fire Chief Toryono Green
Chief of Police Donald Ramsdell
Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor
File

David D. Bluhm
253-566-2498 text ok
