

**From:** richard.cosner <richard.cosner@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:08 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ord 28624 Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Council, Mayor, I understand the tax is coming under review here in June. I voiced my opinion back then that I would no longer spend any of my income in the City of Tacoma, and I have kept that promise to date!

As your constituents testify before you today, let me remind you of the troubles our world is encountering, let me remind you of the failed tax in Freattle, let me remind you how the tax failed to stop any violence, let me remind you how many businesses left Freattle, let me remind you of the Tourism lost in Freattle!

Will I need to remind you to turn off the lights as we leave Tacoma, just like Freattle is losing ground to anarchists, mob violence, riots, a dwindling and devasted Police Force with no desire to help those in need! Do I need to remind you of what used to be a picturesque Seattle that has turned into a sesspool of homeless camps, drug users, and mentally deficient people clammering for charity from the Freattlites that remain!

This is the road that you are turning down, should you follow this road of failed policies and actions we will see the same failures over run Tacoma making it the same as all those other Cities that attempted archaically designed and failed policies. All of California-failed, bankrupt! Chicago- the worst violence in the Country. Freattle- hostile take over of an area and Police Facility! There are so many things wrong with their policies that to fix it now will almost be impossible, they are losing the battle with Socialism and anarchists!

Tacoma still has a chance recover, please end these attempts at following failed policies and create actual policies that work. Work recovery systems for drug users, mental health for those on the streets, programs to take people out of homeless camps and put them in areas where they can reintegrate back into society. Partner with organizations with proven success in mental health and drug addiction. Bring support for Suicide awareness and assistance,

Suicide is where over 80% of your firearm violence occurs yet NO ONE is doing absolutely anything to address that side of the firearm debate! If you want to curb violence, start with the criminals, getting help for drug addicts, mentally unstable individuals, address suicide mental health support and intervention, and most of all, STOP following the failed policies from other cities and States!

Although, I am not your constituents, I used to come to what used to be a great City, just like Seattle! I no longer go to Freattle, and I stopped going to Tacoma. If this tax continues, I will continue my protest and not provide the City of Tacoma with any revenue from my family. It will go to other Cities and Businesses that deserve my hard earned dollar even if it means costing me more to obtain what we need!

I do hope that we can do business again in the future, until then, good day and many blessings to all of you.

Richard Cosner  
507 7th Ave  
Milton, WA 98354

**From:** dtgainer@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:07 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28624

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Counsel Members,

I write you to ask that you vote down the proposed ordinance to impose an unconstitutional tax on firearm and ammo purchases. We all know this is just another attempt to chip away at our second amendment rights to defend our family and property not only from criminal intent but also a tyrannical Federal, State and local government. We the People are not sheep and will not tolerate a runaway government that no longer listens to its voters whether we share the same political ideology or not. You were put in your position of leadership to represent ALL constituents, not just those that share your personal beliefs. I would think the latest upheaval and violence in Seattle and across the nation would be an eye opener for all to why we need our second amendment rights in tact.

How you vote on his matter will be remembered come reelection time

Thank You

**From:** Edward Winskill <Navarth@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City of Tacoma Firearms and Ammunition Tax; Ordinance 28624

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the City Council:

I am submitting the following written testimony to the Clerk in accordance with the current procedures, for consideration at the Council's meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd 2020. My understanding is that the above firearms and ammunition tax is up for review.

I urge the Council to repeal the tax or to indefinitely extend its implementation beyond the currently-established July 1, 2020 effective date.

I wrote a detailed objection to the proposed tax before its adoption last Fall, and testified before the Council in opposition. As a result of considerable public interest and input, the council more or less 'provisionally' adopted the ordinance, with a direction to the City Manager to study its possible economic impacts, with an express view toward the possible repeal of the ordinance depending on the outcome of that study.

Of course, the Covid emergency made the study unfeasible in the expected timeframe, it has not taken place, and for that reason alone the implementation of the tax should be indefinitely delayed until the study promised to the community can be undertaken.

Moreover, the emergency has already deeply impacted the economic viability of the City's firearms retailers, and especially the smaller ones which submitted lengthy testimony at the time of the initial adoption of the tax. This was, of course, completely unanticipated by everybody. These stores and the general sporting goods stores have just been able to reopen only in the last two weeks, after 3 months of shutdown. It is now virtually certain that the tax will put the smaller stores out of business, and badly impair the prospects of the larger sporting goods stores within the city limits.

We who are traditional target shooters are the class of firearms owners who in the nature of the sport use large amounts of ammunition. A trip to the range and an hour of target practice or competition would easily cost ten dollars or more each time in just the ammunition tax alone, on top of the considerable expense of ammunition itself, and sales taxes. The result would be that the main customers would abandon the Tacoma retailers, and purchase ammunition in Fife, Lakewood, University Place, etc.

It is highly likely that this fact, combined with the tremendous economic impact of the Covid emergency, will make it impossible for these retailers to do business.

Therefor as a citizen and resident of Tacoma, I respectfully urge the Council to repeal the tax ordinance, or to put off its implementation indefinitely.

Ed Winskill  
Attorney at Law  
15 N. Broadway Ste. A  
Tacoma 98403  
253 355 8167  
15 N. Broadway

**From:** Tom King <tking357@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Statement from a Tacoma Resident  
**Attachments:** ordinance.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please forward this PDF to all the members of the City Council for the June 23rd meeting. Thank You

To: Members of the Tacoma City Council

From: Tom King 3628 S Thompson Ave, Tacoma, WA

We the people who you represent would ask that you follow our requests.

1. Consider what Ordinance 28624 Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax will do to"
  - a. Small Businesses in Tacoma
  - b. Citizens of Tacoma
2. Consider the impact on the budget of Tacoma
  - a. It will cause the Citizens to buy guns and ammo out side of the Ordinance borders, therefore taking money for the budget that is generated by current means.

Warmest Regards,

Tom King

To City Clerk please see to it that the people listed below get a copy of this email. Thank you, Tom King

***Send an email to: [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org)***

**Mayor Victoria Woodards**

**Council Member John Hines - Position 1**

**Council Member Robert Thoms - Position 2**

**Council Member Keith Blocker - Position 3**

**Council Member Catherine Ushka - Position 4**

**Council Member Chris Beale - Position 5**

**Council Member Lillian Hunter - At-Large Position 6**

**Deputy Mayor Conor McCarthy - At-Large Position 7**

**From:** John R <jredal@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma City Council Proposed Tax on Firearms and Ammunition.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the City Clerk of Tacoma representing Mayor Victoria Woodards and council members:

Please consider this email as my objection to the proposed tax on firearms and ammunition scheduled to be implemented on July 1st, 2020.

Prior to the implementation of this tax, the city manager was required to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed tax. To my knowledge, this feasibility study has not been conducted.

In addition, it is my strong belief that this tax proposal will have a negative impact on local businesses. It will also do nothing to stop violent crimes from occurring. All this proposal does is punish local businesses, and law-abiding citizens, who value and respect the constitutional rights granted to every citizen of this country.

Please consider this email as my formal OBJECTION to this proposal in place of public testimony.

Respectfully,

John R.

**From:** Zachary Duncan <zachpduncan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 8:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23 council meeting, written testimony, ordinance 28624  
**Attachments:** Letter to Tacoma City Council June 23 2020 (1).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good evening. Please submit this to the Mayor and the City Council. Since the meeting tomorrow is virtual and I will not be able to provide public testimony as usual, I am providing written testimony. Please confirm when you have gotten this email. I appreciate your time and hard work.

Best,  
Zach Duncan

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council members

Throughout October and November, I spoke against Ordinance 28624 at multiple meetings. I am once again asking that the council repeal this ordinance. One of the amendments that was added to the ordinance was a requirement for the city manager to conduct a feasibility study on the proposed task. The main focus for the study was to determine the loss of revenue the city would lose due to gun businesses going out of business. This study never occurred. It is unwise and unfair for this tax to move forward as planned on July 1. From a money standpoint, the tax is predicted to raise approximately \$30,000 for the City of Tacoma. In the world of government programs, that is peanuts in the grand scheme of things. The owner of one of the local gun-shops in town told me that he gives the city of Tacoma approximately \$250,000 a year in taxes. So, not only will the tax raise very little revenue, the city of Tacoma will lose far more money from lost businesses (there are 3 gun-shops and one large firearms manufacturer in the city of Tacoma). Considering how many businesses are hurting right now, the city of Tacoma would be unwise to deliberately cripple an industry that is doing quite well during the pandemic.

A huge number of people showed up in October and November to speak against the ordinance. While the council was gracious in allowing us to speak, it was clear that your minds were already made up. Many of you stated that you knew that the tax was not going to fix the problem of gun violence, but it was a step in the right direction. Others of you stated that it was time for gun owners to pay their fare share for gun violence. As I stated a few months ago, statements like these are extremely insulting to those of us who own firearms. Gun owners (especially CPL holders) are the most law abiding citizens in Washington State. Myself and many others have volunteered countless hours teaching new gun owners how to be safe and

responsible. We bear absolutely no responsibility for gun violence; rather we empower people to defend themselves against such violence.

At the end of the day we cannot force you to repeal this ordinance. But what you are doing is wrong. Criminals are the ones responsible for gun violence. Not us. I am tired of hearing this “fair share” nonsense. We pay taxes, obey the law, and vote. You want to fix violence? Bring back real discipline in schools, preach against single parent households, clean up the drug addicted homeless population (funny how they enjoy more rights than we do) and hire more police. Yes, I said that. Many of us are not thrilled at you attacking the police. They have a right to defend themselves, and need to be allowed to do their job. If this tax is implemented, people are going to have a real difficult time affording guns and ammunition to protect themselves. Considering we might not have too many police by then, people are going to need protection. In this day and age of equity, please remember that a gun is the great equalizer. A 250 pound male attacker can be defeated by a much smaller individual with a pistol ready to open up some “new airways” in their attacker. Remember, when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.

Sincerely,

Zachary Duncan

Rifle Coach, Firearms Instructor, Long Time resident of Tacoma

**From:** alejandroseverino@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Residential Testimony in Regards Of Implementing Ordinance 28624

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mayor and Council Members,

The Tacoma Gun and Ammunition Tax was approved back in November 2019 with an additional note in the bill by Council Member Hunter that the City Manager was to be required to conduct a feasibility study on this tax; if it was found to have negative impacts on firearm businesses, the tax can be repealed.

Since no study was conducted I find it would be irresponsible to implement a tax when businesses could severely be effected by this. In the Seattle Times, you can find news article that mention of the Gun Tax in Seattle failing to reach even half the expected revenue from the tax, and even generating less in subsequent years. Their tax also caused all but two firearm businesses from leaving Seattle after the tax essentially killed their business. And lastly, Seattle Times reports that there was a 6% rise in shootings in 2019 over 2018. With all due respect, Ordinance 28624 is very similar to Seattle's Gun Tax and would not solve any of the problems that it seeks to change. I urge you to change your mind on Ordinance 28624 and vote it off before it would affect our Tacoma business owners.

Very Respectfully,  
Anthony Severino

**From:** Corin McDonald <corin@evrybdy.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:34 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria  
**Cc:** Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; TPD-IA; Walker, Kristina; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Stewart, Linda; TPD-commendations; Johnston, Kathryn; City Clerk's Office; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor  
**Subject:** Manuel Ellis  
  
**Importance:** High  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear elected officials of the City of Tacoma,

I'm emailing regarding the murder of Manuel Ellis. Upon reading what is available to the public and observing how police Chief Don Ramsdell has handled this case, it has become clear to me that Mr. Ramsdell is part of the protection and cover up of the officers that murdered Manuel Ellis.

I would like to do whatever I can to assist the family of Manuel Ellis and the greater city of Tacoma to advocate for Chief Don Ramsdell to be immediately fired from his position with the TPD. The fact that he can not recall a SINGLE officer being relieved from duty due to community complaints is unbelievable. I know for a fact that some officers have many complaints against them and although Mr. Ramsdell "says" there is a protocol for that, we all understand what that means. The protocol is to file some paper work and then carry on. This was the case with former officer Derek Chauvin of Minneapolis and obviously the case with the TPD as well.

Its time to defund and dismantle these corrupt police chiefs that allow this behavior to continue.

Furthermore, I would like to see murder charges brought against the officers involved and will continue to contact state and federal officials on this matter.

I would like to have a discussion with Mayor Woodards and have a direct understanding of how the office of the mayor of Tacoma is handling this. Why is Don Ramsdell still going to work when the video footage clearly shows his officers using force that they denied using? How is that okay to lie and then not take accountability for lying to the public? What is happening (beyond the State Patrol Investigation) to bring murder charges against these officers? I for one, do not trust the State Patrol will complete an unbiased investigation. They are not very far removed from the law enforcement code that exists in our system.

I will be posting this letter to my approximately 1500 followers on Facebook and Instagram and encourage everyone to put pressure on the City of Tacoma to fire Don Ramsdell immediately and bring murder chargers against the officers involved in the death of Manuel Ellis.

Sincerely,  
Corin McDonald  
206-334-7420

**From:** Chris Moore <chris.moore2@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 2:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Not just another police comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

City Council,

The complacency among you has gone on far enough. For years our city has been brutalized by police officers and something needs to be done. I'm not talking body cams, I'm not talking 8 can't wait, I'm talking abolition. Don't call it radical when education and public housing has been defunded in the past too. Where was all the uproar about those? Well it happened to citizens who felt they held little to no power/ voice in this city. The police department does not deserve the funding it gets currently and I ask of you all to do something, because come election time, we will not forget your complacency in these matters. Especially when Manuel Ellis' family is still waiting for answers over a hundred days after his murder by officers. I know you have power, do something with it.

Show up at a protest in Tacoma, speak out, tell your citizens FIRST HAND what you will do for them, because we are all watching, and your silence is deafening. The mayor spoke out, why can't you?

Chris Moore

**From:** Chris Moore <cdmoore207@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 6:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** 8 to abolition

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi, City Council members and Mayor Woodards,

I am writing again because I have come to give you some future steps after you pass a vote to instate the 8 can't wait policies (can you all also commit to punishing officers who break the 8 can't wait, preferably by firing and charging them with assault). It is called the **8 to Abolition** (<https://www.8toabolition.com/>). This addresses the root of the problem with police and could be funded by defunding police and not raising taxes. Please look into this.

Be the change, we are all watching,

--

Chris Moore

(253) 592-9294

**From:** Nayra Halajian <nayra95@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2020 7:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 5/23/20: Justice for Manuel Ellis

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

The murder of Manuel Ellis at the hands of the Tacoma Police Department was horrific and unacceptable. We have seen the video, we have signed the petitions. What have you done about it? How are you going to ensure that TPD won't murder any more black people, or any people for that matter?

We have seen too many body camera videos of black men, women, and children dying at the hands of police. Increased de-escalation training or banning chokeholds won't work.

We need abolition. It requires defunding the police, demilitarizing communities (that means disarming law enforcement), removing police from Tacoma Public Schools, closing local jails, repealing laws that criminalize misdemeanor offenses, investing in community self-governance, providing safe housing for everyone, and investing in care, not cops. Some of this might sound crazy to you, but it's not. We need to reimagine our society because the structures and systems currently in place are discriminatory.

This will not be an easy task, there is no simple bill that will eradicate the racism embedded in our institutions. To be truly anti-racist, the Tacoma City Council must work persistently. You must make anti-racism your priority. Otherwise there won't be justice.

Nayra  
Tacoma Community Member

**From:** Guion Rosenzweig <guionyork@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for City Council Meeting 06/23/2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Tacoma City Council Members,

Thank you for your time.

Today, I would like to write to you about Chief Ramsdell of the Tacoma Police Department. I am a voter, taxpayer and private citizen of Tacoma and write to you as a private citizen.

On June 17th, Chief Ramsdell said he would not step down as Tacoma Police Chief because he has "served this police department for many, many years," and has "served alongside a lot of wonderful people in this police department, and I've served a lot of great people throughout our community." King 5 News. I would like to speak to this statement.

Though Chief Ramsdell has served the department for many years, his service has not been what I would call exemplary. His unwillingness to examine his department's shortfalls is an embarrassment to what he calls service. If any normal person performed as he has in his job, they would have long since been fired. His resignation or termination should be strongly considered by this council. Having this man represent a department that is due for change is not inspiring to me, as a citizen, that any change will occur. Letting him stay on and continuing to sign commendations for officers involved in Manuel Ellis' death is a poor choice of actions on the part of this council if we as a city want to show we are willing to change the status quo of policing and governing the police which has served so poorly.

I'd like to give an example of what Chief Ramsdell calls his service to the community. In 2007, Zina Linnik in Hilltop was kidnapped at a 4th of July party. She was tragically murdered by her kidnapper. As with the Manuel Ellis case, Tacoma Citizens and the City were misled at every turn in her case. Chief Ramsdell was reprimanded (hardly enough) for failing to disclose that his oncall officer on call to issue amber alerts had fallen asleep on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2007. There were many other missteps he was not ever asked to fully explain in this case. A young girl, blooming in life, had her life snuffed out while the Tacoma Police took a nice night off sleeping on a holiday AFTER he was asked to issue an amber alert. Ramsdell lied to the public saying that the investigation had delayed the issuing of the Amber Alert. This was proved false over and over again finally resulting in a meager reprimand followed by very few changes in the department.

There have been numerous other questioned police shootings which Ramsdell has brushed off without investigation, officers have left been fired from his department claiming they were fired for not using deadly force (Lt. David O'Dea 2019), and investigational missteps withheld from the public. Again, if any normal person performed this way in their job, they would have been let go.

Is Chief Ramsdell who obfuscates information to the public and this council, seems to prefer the use of force, and is generally unwilling to examine his own department or uphold accountability standards the type of Chief we want representing us? THIS CITIZEN SAYS NO. I want someone who is willing to examine their actions and employees and take responsibility. Any 5 year old is taught to take responsibility for their actions and answer questions truthfully, but apparently we can't expect that from our Chief of Police. This is unacceptable.

I appreciate your time and hope you will consider the plea of this private citizen.

Very respectfully, as a private citizen, I would like to note that I believe these comments should be read at city council either by a moderator or the comment makers. Not allowing for open public comment does make it seem like we are trying to brush off these issues rather than deal with them. I know these would be uncomfortable to hear and listen to rather than read, but as our elected officials, this job isn't supposed to be easy all the time. I voted for many of you and would hope you would welcome open comment from your constituents.

Kind regards,

Guion Rosenzweig, North Slope Tacoma, UPS Graduate, Tacoma Citizen for over 15 years

**From:** Chelsea Smith <cheesypaperco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Demands!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whole it may concern,

We demand that you:

1. defund the police and sheriff! Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, house, mental health services, counseling, education and health care!
2. remove cops from all schools!
3. free all jailed and detailed people in Pierce county!

Thank you!

**From:** Paul Cavanagh <paulgcavanagh@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:15 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council Members and elected officials,

As you make decisions on behalf of the people of Tacoma, please consider our demands:

- 1) Defund the police and sheriff! Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) Remove cops from all schools
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

Thank you,

Paul Cavanagh

**From:** Abby Rees <abby.rees13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for City Council Meeting on 6/24

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the City Council of Tacoma,

I am a constituent residing in Tacoma (98403 zip code) who demands justice for Manuel Ellis. As I'm sure you all are aware, Manuel Ellis died a tragic, violent and PREVENTABLE death. Tacoma police officers murdered Manuel Ellis, and now, the city of Tacoma has done nothing to bring justice forth for his family and loved ones. I am demanding that the officers involved in Manuel Ellis's death are fired, arrested, and charged with murder. No pension, no paid leave, fired and arrested. Additionally, I am demanding that funding be cut from the Tacoma police department and instead be invested into the community. I tuned into the city council meeting a few weeks ago where the "8 can't wait" measures were discussed and I was hopeful to hear that most if not all council members are willing to accept police reform. However reform is not enough. Reform isn't possible. The only way forward at this point is taking steps towards police abolition which starts with defunding the police and reallocating those funds to mental health, education, and other valuable social services. I will not stand for police violence in this city any longer. Furthermore I will not stand for this blatant lack of accountability and lack of respect for the family of the deceased. Do better.

Thank you,

Abby Rees

**From:** Maddy Mixter <m.e.mixter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Comments 6/23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello City Clerk,

I hope these comments can be shared with City Council, and hopefully opened for discussion.

I believe that the City of Tacoma needs to defund the police and sheriff. These funds should be allocated to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and health care.

Police officers should not be in schools. All of them should be removed.

All people jailed or detained in Pierce County should be released.

The police officers who murdered Manuel Ellis should be fired immediately, and charged.

Thank you for your time,

Maddy Mixter

Resident of Tacoma

1713 S 46th St

**From:** Emelia Witt <ewitt@pugetsound.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council public comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am emailing to address a set of demands that I have for Tacoma and Pierce county. I demand that the police and sheriff are defunded, and that this funding is allocated to community transformative justice, mental health services, healthcare, education, counseling, and housing to support Black and Brown communities. I also demand that all cops are removed from all schools for the safety and wellbeing of BIPOC students. Black and Brown students deserve to feel safe in their own schools, and a cop presence actively takes away from this safety. Additionally, all people who are detained and jailed in Pierce county must be released, due to the rise of COVID-19 and the inhumane nature of these facilities in general.

Thank you for your time,

Emelia Witt

University of Puget Sound '21  
Communications and Environmental Policy Double Major; Spanish Minor Jewish Student Union | President she/her/hers  
ewitt@pugetsound.edu

**From:** Erica Varela-Gittings <erica.varela@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

In light of recent events highlighting the Tacoma police departments excessive use of force against black people leading to the death of Manuel Ellis and the systemic racism inherent in most police organizations we demand justice. Black communities need less police and more mental health, healthcare, community building, and education resources. You can not police yourself out of the violence against minorities. We need action and funding, therefore I stand in favor of defunding the police, removing police from schools, and releasing all jailed and detained people in Pierce county.

Thank you,  
Erica Burns  
303-585-1419

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Carolyn Kotowski <carolynk93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:31 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment for Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello Tacoma City Council,

I am a proud Tacoma Resident. I live near Point Defiance and I am writing to share my opinion. Please consider reducing the police, sheriff, and prison budget. Allocate this fund to housing, mental health, education, health care, and counselling. There are [many studies](#) that show that having police and cops in public schools does not result in better outcomes for students, it results in lower achievement and lowers students feeling of safety and belonging.

Additionally, there needs to be a deep look at all people currently jailed and detained in Pierce County and this number needs to be greatly reduced. Especially on nonviolent offenses.

Thank you for your time and thank you for representing the residents of Tacoma.

Carolyn Kotowski

**From:** Anastasia Cale <anastasia.cale@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:35 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** comments for city council meeting tonight

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello,

My name is Anastasia Cale and I am a resident of Tacoma (zip code 98403). I love this city very much which is why I think we can do MUCH BETTER when it comes to safety in our community.

I am asking that the city council take into consideration the following items:

1) Defund the police. Reallocate this funding to community transformative justice, affordable housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare. I especially would like to see our residents without homes being contacted by social workers and not by police with weapons.

2) Remove police from all schools.

3) Justice for Manuel Ellis - as in, his murders should be treated as such.

I hope you read this and take it to heart!

-Anastasia

**From:** Dana Levy <[danaannelevy@gmail.com](mailto:danaannelevy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Dana and I am a Tacoma resident and student at the University of Puget Sound. I am writing to demand justice for Manuel Ellis, his family, and the community at large. Manuel Ellis was murdered by the Tacoma Police Department on March 3, 2020. I demand that this justice be served by defunding the police and sheriff's departments and reallocating their funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, healthcare, and other community needs. Further, I demand that cops be removed from all schools in Tacoma. Kids in schools should not be policed, especially as this policing disproportionately affects students of color. This policing contributes heavily to the school to prison pipeline, as when cops are present on campus, students are more likely to be arrested than referred to counseling or other campus services (that are likely underfunded in comparison). I also demand that all jailed and detained people in Tacoma be released, as the prison industrial complex preys heavily on Black, indigenous, and POC communities in order to increase private profits. The Northwest Detention Center especially is an unconscionable blight on our city, a human rights violation, and a clear example of how companies like the GEO group value profits over people. Always, but especially in a pandemic, it is immoral to detain these people in such close quarters, where they do not receive proper nutrition or hygiene, and are much likelier to contract coronavirus.

Tacoma City Council, I urge you to PLEASE meet these demands and DO BETTER for your constituents. Thank you for your time.

No justice, no peace.

-Dana Levy

**From:** Heidi Sandhorst <heidisandhorst@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:51 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Today's council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello!

I am a concerned citizen. I see you are having a council meeting this evening (June 23rd 5pm). I am writing to demand that you defund the police and sheriff and allocate those funds to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, health care, counseling and education. Most crimes are low level offenses that were committed because of a huge lack of these services in the first place and basic needs not being met especially in poor communities of color. If these services are funded and we create communities where people are cared for and have their basic needs met there will be exponentially less crime and no need for the police so let's defund them and invest in community!

Also you all need to remove cops from all schools. No one seeking education should have to do that in fear of violence and that is the atmosphere that police create. Why are you interested in causing trauma and fear in students? Remove cops from all schools!!!

Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County, especially those in jail for low level offenses, drug, loitering, petty theft. This needs to happen now. You need to shut down the NWDC and free all those detained, it is a gross human rights violation. It is a humanitarian and public health issue, please don't be on the wrong side of history.

Thank you,

Heidi

--

Dark Age Tattoo

1205 E Pike St

Seattle WA 98122

(206)323-1637

[heidisandhorst@gmail.com](mailto:heidisandhorst@gmail.com)

- All appointments require a deposit that can be made at the time of the initial consultation.

- All deposits are non refundable.
- 48 hours notice is required to cancel appointments. A shorter notice may result in a forfeited deposit. Ample notice for a cancellation is always appreciated.
- Small adjustments to a drawing are always possible however larger changes or a total change in design may require a new deposit to pay for additional drawing time.

**From:** Emma McVeigh <emma.katherine.mcveigh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:12 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for today's Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I would like to submit a comment for today's meeting.

I would like to share the demands made by activists in Pierce County regarding police use of force and funding for law enforcement. As we have seen with the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks by the hands of police, and the [thousands of people of color killed by police every year](#), serious changes need to be made. And I am not speaking to reform. Every year, every time a person of color is killed by police, city and county governments promise reform. New anti-bias training is introduced, certain restraints and weapons are banned, and yet we find ourselves back here again and again.

I want to echo the demands of activists:

1. Remove all cops from schools. We don't need cops policing children. Period.
2. Defund the Tacoma police and Pierce county sheriff. When we say "defund," we don't mean simply strip all money away with no replacement. We want to re-allocate that money into more useful and productive places. Re-allocate it to things that actually help our community, such as transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County, especially those with marijuana charges, or other minor offenses. The prison system disproportionately impacts people of color, as does policing.

To create change, we need to completely rethink how we protect and serve our community. This doesn't mean adding reform after reform to a bad system. We cannot keep putting bandaids over canyons. We need to strip it down, and rebuild from the ground up.

Thank you for your time,

Emma McVeigh

**From:** Jeanne Stevens <stevens.jeanne.m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma Police Department Re-Accreditation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Accreditation is a seal of excellence and it is far from clear that it's one the TPD has earned. As a community, we need to take seriously the concerns expressed about excessive use of force in the case of Manuel Ellis death, as well as accounts from numerous community members of their experiences of excessive force and racial bias in encounters with Tacoma Police.

Warmly,  
Jeanne Stevens



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** Danielle Kuhlmann <danielle.rose@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:23 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

As a concerned citizen, I demand that you support the following important demands:

-Defund the Police and Sheriff, redirect those funds to Community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

-Remove police from schools. This has been proven to be detrimental to students of color and result in the school-to-prison pipeline. It's unnecessary and hurtful.

-Free all Jailed and detained people in Pierce County. Period. Incarceration is unjust and racism In the pre-sentencing and bail systems is rampant.

Thank you,

Danielle Kuhlmann

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** luciadill@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:25 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council June 23rd

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council,

I am writing to demand  
these actions be taken now to create real change in our city:

1. Defund the police and  
sheriff departments

2. Allocate the funding  
from both of these departments to transformative justice, housing, mental  
health services, counseling, education, and healthcare, particularly in Black  
neighborhoods.

3. Remove all  
cops/police from ALL schools

4. Free all jailed and  
detained people in Pierce County for their health and safety during the  
pandemic.

Sincerely,

Lucia Dill

2101 N Fife St,

Tacoma, WA 98406

**From:** colin andersen <simple-colin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment. Defund the Police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council of Tacoma

In light of the recent shooting of Manuel Ellis, I as a Tacoma resident am calling on you to defund the police and sheriff departments and allocate this funding to the greater community through housing, education and healthcare.

implicit bias training would not of prevented this homicide and to put more tax payer resources into the police department when our schools and social programs have been starved would/is utterly shameful.

In addition, we must remove officers from our school! To break school to prison pipeline we must not over police our children and ruin thier futures.

Release all detained people jailed in Tacoma including the NW Detention center. We cannot continue to allow prisons to become hot beads to corona virus. This council is responsible for those lives and must do what it can to make sure those live are protected.

Colin Andersen

**From:** Haley Archer <haleymlewis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments ahead of meeting today

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning - I appreciate you taking the time to receive feedback from community members.

My comments are earnest demands that I'm sure echo many you've received already:

1) Defund the police and sheriff. Funds should be reallocated to services that better serve the community -- transformative justice, housing, mental health services, education and healthcare. It is evident that the current system is not only not serving, but doing real harm, to our community. Sincere consideration of this action is paramount.

2) Remove all cops from Tacoma schools. It should have become apparent in the past month that police presence is creating a culture of discomfort and ultimately causing the opposite impact of what was intended.

3) Dismiss and charge the officers involved with Manuel Ellis's death (Christopher Burbank, Matthew Collins, Masyih Ford, and Timothy Rankine). The fact that Officer Collins received a "responsible service" award while on leave due to this incident is a slap in the face to the Ellis family, as well as the entire BIPOC community of Tacoma, and makes it clear that the severity of his actions and those of his fellow officers are not being taken remotely seriously. Shame on the Tacoma Police Department, and shame on you, representatives of your community, for your silent complicity of this incredible injustice.

I implore you to do the right thing. The world is changing, and Tacoma can too.

--

Haley Archer  
[haleymlewis@gmail.com](mailto:haleymlewis@gmail.com)  
(360) 268-7730

**From:** Heather Chan <heatherswchan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment from Hilltop resident on police brutality

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Tacoma City Council,

I am a Hilltop resident and I am calling on the city council to:

- Defund the Tacoma Police Department and allocate funds to the creation of low-income housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and health care. When I call 911 at work, I have to weigh whether the response might lead to someone's death or injury by police hands. It's a calculation I shouldn't have to make. We must rebuild law enforcement from the ground up. Furthermore, having known a public defender and prosecutor, I have heard many stories about how unhelpful police are, how they avoid their paperwork and impedes judicial cases, and about openly racist behaviors.
- Remove all police presence from schools so that students do not have to grow up in proximity to individuals trained by a racist institution, the police.
- Abolish Pierce County prisons and release detainees in the Northwest Detention Center.
- Fire, arrest, and charge all four officers involved in Manuel Ellis's death. Having known someone who was murdered in 2015 and his killer still not found, I strongly believe that justice delayed is justice denied.

We must abolish the police to stop the cycle of violence against Black people and other communities disproportionately harmed by police brutality. The only way to end police brutality is abolition. Historians have documented how police have resisted reform for centuries, and how the problems we face with police in the present are the same complaints made nearly a century ago. We have an opportunity to improve the lives of Black residents and other peoples right now and we must take it. Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Chan

(360) 710-8034

**From:** Benjamin Summerour <summerourbenjamin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment 6/23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, here are my public comment for today's city council meeting -

- 1) I am demanding that the council move forward on defunding the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff budgets, and allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling and education and healthcare.
- 2) Move forward on removing cops from Tacoma Public Schools
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County in light of dangerous conditions during the pandemic
- 4) Compel City Manager Elizabeth Pauli to immediately fire, arrest and charge the officers involved in the murder of Manuel Ellis: Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masyih Ford, Timothy Rankine.

Thank you

**From:** Jes Burton <jes.burton.vii@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Tacoma City Counsel-June 23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,

I am writing to add a few brief comments to be discussed.

- 1) Defund the Tacoma PD and Sheriff. Allocate this money to the community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
- 2) Remove all police officers from all schools.
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** Darcy Einarson <darcy.einarson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** comments for Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I'm writing to encourage you to defund the police and reallocate the funds to community based transformative justice, affordable housing and mental health resources. Please listen to the community and remove the police from all schools. Free all the detained and jailed people in Pierce County.

Thank you.  
Darcy Einarson

**From:** Noelle Reed <noellemel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund and abolish policing and prisons.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

As elected members representing Tacoma it is your duty to listen to the voices of your community members.

demands:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

We must defund and abolish all policing and prisons (including immigration detention centers) and invest in already existing systems of care and community led projects. It is possible and necessary.

Sincerely,

Noelle

**From:** Deanna Liceaga <deannacl@mykolab.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:49 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council - 6/23/2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a citizen of Tacoma and would like the following comment submitted for consideration by City Council in regards to policing in this city.

I firmly believe the Tacoma Police Department should be defunded, with those funds reallocated into healthcare and social services. Policing as we know it today is fundamentally flawed, and at its core foundation it is a historically racist system. Reform has proven to do little in terms of public safety, more body cams and retraining only funnels more taxpayer money into the department. The police department is a failing organization, only a small percentage of crimes in progress are actively halted, this would be unacceptable and deemed a failure to any other organization. It is a violent department that either attracts violent individuals to join, or hardens them to violence.

I believe all ties between Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Police Department should be cut immediately. This relationship only grows the school-to-prison pipeline, and does not protect students. Those funds should be reallocated to counselors and more student programs.

Police are a poor treatment for symptoms that run deeper than anything they can solve. The police as we know it are obsolete and we must reimagine a new system that cares for all residents, that meets their needs and does not threaten violence against them.

Furthermore, we should also be working toward emptying the jails and prisons in Tacoma. These are dangerous places, neglectful in care, as well as Petri dishes for Covid-19. We should not "other" the people being held in detention - they are our citizens, they are human beings. Being convicted of a crime should not be a sentence to inhumane treatment, possible exposure to a deadly virus, or purely a space of punishment with no hope afterward. We are better than punishment, we can work with the proven techniques of restorative justice and change the system. Additionally, those held in detention by Border Patrol are not criminals, immigration is evolution - it is in our very nature to seek safe shelter. They should all be freed immediately.

I urge the council to see further, look deeper, and reimagine what Tacoma could be - this is why you were elected.

Thank you,  
~Deanna Liceaga  
North Slope Resident

**From:** John Sweers <jsweers23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Reallocation of police funds

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings-

Thank you for taking the time to seriously read and consider my request and comments. Like countless people nationally and locally I have grown increasingly concerned about the militarization and use of police force and funding in America. I strongly disagree with the premise that any police force needs to be equipped to be prepared to wage war against their constituents. The vast amount of money spent nationally on tactical equipment, armored vehicles, tear gas, etc does not make our communities or any individuals safer.

Any funds spent on this type of equipment, on paying cops to be in our schools and on paying police overtime to aggressively be present at peaceful protests is a misuse of state and local taxpayer funds. A safer and healthier community would see all of these funds diverted to a stark and noticeable increase in mental health/doa counseling, low income housing, small business loans, an increase in the hiring and training of school district and city social workers and other community supported/non violent interventions.

These actions must start NOW in order to avoid the continuation of a culture that leads to the killing of unarmed citizens of Tacoma, Pierce County and the United States.

Thank you

John Sweers

Tacoma Resident and taxpayer

**From:** Elsie Nguyen <elsie.nguyen@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:02 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the City Council,

I would like to take some time out of my work day to voice some concerns that I hope will be addressed during this evening's meeting. I believe that the funding that Tacoma police department is receiving is being maliciously used. In the light of the death of Manuel Ellis through police brutality, I believe this is evidence that change needs to happen, and that needs to happen through more than just reform. I demand defunding the TPD and diverting those funds to communities that would benefit greatly - transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare, just to name a few. I demand that police officers are removed from all schools and all ties between TPD and Tacoma schools severed. I demand you free all jailed and detained people in Pierce county. Take the money you throw at cops while they sit at home on leave after murdering innocent people and use it for the greater good of the people in your community. Your community needs funds and support, they do not need more cops. Thank you.

Elsie Nguyen  
2062618698

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Frederick Anex-Schnauss <fredericktas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:04 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** On law enforcement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council,

I am writing to you because our community is in crisis. We need money to be pulled away from policing and put toward community programs, lead by the community members they are serving. Police have not kept us safe. We need no more police in schools, because it is harmful to children learning emotional skills safely, and it disproportionately impacts marginalized people. And we need all jailed and detained people released immediately, as COVID 19 poses a serious risk to these people, their loved ones, and our communities as a whole.

With both recent events and the ongoing work of community leaders, it has become clear that police and jails are not serving our community, nor are they making them safer. Please take the time to listen to us, your city, when we ask for these things. We will be better for it.

Thank you,

Frederick Anex-Schnauss

Tacoma student and resident

**From:** mandyroll218@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public comment for City council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

The Tacoma police department needs to be largely defunded. Many of their funds should be transferred to organizations who are better equipped to handle mental health, homelessness, etc, and the police department should be responsible for handling actual crime only. Police SHOULD NOT be in schools, except in the rare circumstance when they are called to respond to an actual crime. Jails should be emptied. Covid risk is both real and terrifying, especially in jail populations where conditions are not adequate for maintaining social distance and good hygiene, and people are coming and going in large numbers with exceptional frequency.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the priorities of your constituents.

Amanda D.

Tacoma resident

**From:** Siri Tiger Kaunda <tiger.siri@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:09 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the police and sheriff

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

In light of recent and historical events, and as a resident of Tacoma since 1988, I ask that the Tacoma City Council take the following actions:

- defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, healthcare, and the arts.
- remove cops from all schools.
- end patrolling through neighborhoods. We don't need cops hanging around. I don't personally call the cops, but they should only come when called.
- free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County. Funds that are saved by not jailing and detaining people can be reallocated for rehabilitation programs.

Thank you.

Siri Tiger Kaunda

253-720-8265

910 S. J St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

**From:** Kylee Abbott <kyleeabbott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Demands for city council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a constituent of 98404 in Tacoma and I am writing to voice my concerns about the city's budget and the way the police departments function in our community. The following are my demands:

1. Defund the police and sheriff - this does not mean take all of their money, this means allocate the majority of this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and health care
2. Remove cops from ALL schools - public schools are no place for police presence and are the incorrect resource for children to succeed and excel
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

We will continue fighting for these demands until our elected representatives hear our voices and work for us.

Kylee

--

Kylee Abbott

[kablab.co](http://kablab.co)

(206) 226-6959

**From:** kablab <hello@kablab.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:11 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma city council demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a constituent of 98404 in Tacoma and I am writing to voice my concerns about the city's budget and the way the police departments function in our community. The following are my demands:

1. Defund the police and sheriff - this does not mean take all of their money, this means allocate the majority of this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and health care
2. Remove cops from ALL schools - public schools are no place for police presence and are the incorrect resource for children to succeed and excel
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

We will continue fighting for these demands until our elected representatives hear our voices and work for us.

Kylee

--

Kylee Abbott

[kablab.co](http://kablab.co)

(206) 226-6959

**From:** Karla Rixon <rixon.karla@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment for City Council meeting on 23 June 2020: Police and Prisons

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council, Mayor, and City Manager,

1. Immediately fire and prosecute all four officers who killed Manuel Ellis.
2. Cut the police department budget by 50%
3. Cut the number of officers in the police department by at least 50%
4. Re-direct that money to programs mitigating homelessness and housing insecurity.
5. Remove cops from schools
6. Free all detained people in Tacoma. Covid19 is exposing just how much of a health hazard jails and prisons are, and it's unjust and immoral to detain people when we know that infections are burning through these institutions

Thank you,

Karla Rixon

**From:** Ruby Mullen <rubymullen71@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comments for today

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning,

I am writing to you to submit my written comments before the meeting today. I would firstly like to demand that the officers who murdered Manuel Ellis are fired and charged. Secondly, the police funding needs to be reduced—the usage of body cams has been proven time and time again to not increase police accountability, and we as tax payers in the city of Tacoma do not want more of our money going to the Tacoma police department and further enabling them to kill with impunity. There also needs to be a guarantee that Manuel's death is given a proper investigation that is free from corruption or obstruction by TPD or the Pierce county sheriffs department. These two departments also need to be independently investigated, as they have meddled with this case, withheld information, and are clearly working to protect fellow cops instead of seeking justice.

Thank you.  
Ruby Mullen

**From:** Sarah Joslyn <joslyn.sars@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:26 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23 City council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma Council Members,

My name is Sarah Joslyn. I live on South Ainsworth in the Hilltop and manage Red Elm Cafe. Most of you already know me.

I'm writing as a member of your community to make my voice known and heard. I've long been of the mind that I won't call the police on my neighbors for any reason short of an active shooter. It's even our policy at my business. It never seemed possible before now that we could live in a better society—one where we don't call armed officers, trained to kill, to respond to every crisis from noise complaints to mental health crises.

I am late to this conversation, but I want to ask that the council cut the police budget by half and use those funds to work with shelters and transitional housing for our neighbors who are impacted by homelessness, fund affordable housing in general, allocate funds for education and after-school programs, and put funds toward comprehensive mental health services and deescalation social work training.

Additionally, I want to see armed police removed from ALL schools in Tacoma.

There has to be better ways to care for our neighbors than to call the police. We do not need to keep having to stand in the street shouting names like Manuel Ellis and Bennie Branch to see that there is a problem here.

Thank you,

Sarah Joslyn

1737 S Ainsworth Ave

**From:** Adrienne Ramm-Granberg <ramm.granberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for Council meeting on 6/23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Councilmembers,

You have an opportunity before you to do right by our community. Families and communities impacted by police violence, over-policing, and incarceration - particularly Black and Indigenous communities - have been sounding the alarm for years and telling you what needs to be done to reverse the harms done by our racist criminal justice system. For the first time, many in Tacoma, Washington state, and around the country are listening and following their lead. Organizers and people directly impacted by racism have done the work of drawing attention to these critical issues and offering solutions; now it's up to you to find the political will to enact policies that will create meaningful, lasting change.

I'm very concerned that the conversation around police accountability in Tacoma has quickly turned to increased funding for police body cameras and training for officers. More resources in the hands of police is *not* the answer. We have plenty of evidence from other cities that show these measures do not eliminate police violence. Systemic problems cannot be fixed with individual-level solutions. Instead, I call on the Council to **drastically reduce the Tacoma Police Department budget and use those funds to help address conditions that give rise to social problems. We need to invest in housing, health, local food systems, education, and community transformative justice.** And we need to make these investments in a way that acknowledges and actively addresses both historical and current racial inequities in Tacoma and Pierce County. Further, **I call on the Council to work with Tacoma School District to end police presence in our schools immediately.**

Lastly, defunding and working toward dismantling our system of policing is just the start of addressing issues of racial inequity in Tacoma. For example, we must also work toward abolishing incarceration, which is an inhumane and ineffective method of fixing social problems. The Council should take **immediate steps to release all people from local and county jails and renew efforts to close the NW Detention Center (ICE Processing Center).**

Tacoma will be a healthier, more vibrant community for all if we address the root causes of our social problems rather than trying to fix them with policing and imprisonment. Now is the time for bold leadership and decisive action. If you are not up to the task, step down and let others lead.

Adrienne Ramm-Granberg

Tacoma, WA

[ramm.granberg@gmail.com](mailto:ramm.granberg@gmail.com)

**From:** Mary Lynn <melynn50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for tonight's Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council,

We have a great opportunity to recreate our community on the principles of justice and equality and freedom - yes, freedom. Freedom from random humiliations, suspicion and brutality for our neighbors who are Black and of color.

Please review funding allocations for the police and sheriff so that housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare can be more fully addressed and our police officers don't get called on for myriad issues for which they are not the proper responders.

Please remove all cops from all schools - they do not belong there.

Please review the charges against all jailed and detained people in Pierce County to determine the most just and unbiased way to handle their situations. This may be to let them go, provide mental health care, housing assistance, who knows. Everyone's basic humanity is a stake here. Please take this seriously for the whole community's sake.

Thank you.

Mary Lynn

resident of Tacoma since 1987

**From:** Ruth Claudio <ruthiecl@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi my name is Ruth Claudio and I'm a resident of Tacoma, Washington . I'm writing to share a list of demands for Tacoma City Council to implement in order to better serve our communities within Tacoma and take a permanent stand against the violence that is perpetuated by systemic racism.

1. Defunding Tacoma PD and Sheriff and allocating those funds to transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove all cops from schools - both public and private.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

It is imperative that Tacoma make swift changes in order to meet the needs and demands of our community. We must do better!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Claudio

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cole Amy <acole@fpschools.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:43 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** City Council Comments

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

As a citizen of this country, resident of Tacoma, and local educator, I am sending this comment to voice my demands for a better community.

1) Defund the Tacoma Police department and reallocate those funds to education, mental health care, counseling services, homelessness, Social work, and other forms of transformative justice services.

2) Remove officers from all schools. Schools lack counselors and other mental health resources. Reallocating funds to schools would aid in this mission greatly.

3) Free all non violent jailed and detained People In Pierce County.

I hope you seriously and fairly consider these viable options as progressive steps toward a more just and liberated community.

Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** Julia Mizutani <julia.mizutani@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:42 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comment for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

My name is Julia Mizutani, I live in the North Slope neighborhood of Tacoma. I am also a young civil rights lawyer.

I am extremely concerned about the policing in this community. I have seen multiple Tacoma police vehicles displaying the blue stripe flag sticker on their cars - which for me and many in my community, signal that they will place their lives and blue lives over the lives of those they are supposed to serve. More specifically, it means that they do not believe that Black lives matter or are at risk of harm, and as a lawyer, it also signals to me that they are more likely to fabricate evidence to cover up the misdeeds of other officers.

Working as an attorney at a civil rights organization, I read and listen to many complaints from our community about the police. I have talked to clients about the police breaking into their homes unannounced and violently harming them (just like Breonna Taylor), I have heard complaints about police arresting young Black and Brown youth who are walking home from school because they "fit a description."

The terrorizing of my neighbors in Hilltop and other parts of Tacoma must stop.

Police reform efforts—from Minneapolis to Tacoma—have failed. To stop police violence, the police must be reduced in size, in budget, and in scope. The police have never served as an adequate response to social problems. They are rooted in violence against Black people. In order to protect Black lives, this moment calls for investing and expanding our safety and well-being beyond policing.

I am demanding that Tacoma divest from the police and sheriffs office and reinvest to community resources that will actually keep us safer, including housing, especially free and affordable housing, mental health services, counseling, public schools, and healthcare.

I demand that Tacoma remove all police officers or SROs from all public schools. School resource officers were placed in schools across the country following Columbine and have yet to stop a single school shooting, but have arrested more than a million youth.

I demand an end to bail. No one should be in jail because they can't afford bail. Period. I demand that especially during COVID-19 where people in jails and prisons across the country have been dying, that all jails and prison and the ICE detention center release everyone in their custody. I demand that no more increases in the budget be put towards expanding the carceral state, including jails, prisons, and detention centers.

- Julia Mizutani, esq.

**From:** Amera Goodwin <ameragoodwin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:49 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a resident of Tacoma, WA. I was born and raised here, and I love Tacoma. I care deeply about my fellow residents, which is why I am demanding that you do the following:

- defund city police and sheriff departments. Reallocate this funding to our community, our schools, and social programs
- remove cops from all schools to close the school to prison pipeline
- free all jailed and detained people in Pierce county

Thank you,

Amera Henley

**From:** Megan Mill <meganannmill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma Officials,

Please hear my demands for justice and allocation of funding.

1) Defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, MENTAL HEALTH, counseling, EDUCATION and healthcare.

2) remove cops from ALL schools

3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce county

Also, please arrest the cops that **murdered** Manuel Ellis.

Thank you,

Megan Mill

**From:** Jade Monroe <jade.monroe.m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for tonight's meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings -

I am a resident of District 2 here in Tacoma, and am writing to request the following:

We defund the Tacoma police & sheriff and allocate that money towards important public services.

We remove police from our public schools.

Thank you for listening,

Jade Monroe

--

**Jade Monroe**  
(253) 449-7303

[jade.monroe.m@gmail.com](mailto:jade.monroe.m@gmail.com)

**From:** Madison Ramey <ramey.madison.p@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the Tacoma PD

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Councilmembers and Mayor,

We need to defund the police. Reform has only made police abuse of power more pervasive. We must remove cops from all of our schools. Funds from abolishing the police must be redistributed and allocated to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Madison Ramey, resident of Tacoma

**From:** Megan Little <megan.c.little@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:08 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** 6/23 Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Madam Mayor and member of the Council,

I am standing in solidarity with residents across our community asking you to defund the Tacoma Police Department. We are in the midst of an economic crisis and facing austerity budgets. These budget cuts should come from the police budget and not from other community programs. This is the time to make great steps toward justice in Tacoma. Let's be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to supporting residents. Let's create a community where people can thrive by funding programs that help people lead successful lives.

Sincerely,  
Megan Little, District 2

**From:** Courtney Edwards <alaluna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:17 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Policing in Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please consider this request:

As a parent of a Tacoma Public School student, I would like to see all officers removed from schools. We know that those officers do not make those spaces safer for students, especially those with black and brown skin.

Defund the police and reallocate those funds to our community services and public education sectors. Tacoma will thrive if more people have access to housing, mental health care, and funded schools.

Thank you,

Courtney

--

courtney

**From:** Stefon Lyons <stefon2k@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23rd City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Stefon Lyons and I'm on the board of directors with LegallyBLACK. We hosted a great protest on Juneteenth where we revealed our 5 very basic demands we need met. They are as following:

1. Mandatory body cams on all law enforcement.
2. Abolish Qualified Immunity
3. Expanded, reformed, and continuous training for officers, as well as continued psychological evaluations and background checks
4. Implement ALL 8 Can't Wait policies
5. Make police misconduct records public

Arguing against these seems to be foolish, as these changes are supported on both sides of the isle.

We won't be letting up on this, so it would be best for you to address them. We have mobilized and will be heard.

Regards,

Stefon Lyons

**From:** Terlona Ngungu <terlona.knife@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments to Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello!

My name is Terlona. I am a resident of Tacoma. I would like to express some of my concerns and raise some of the community demands.

Firstly, none of the police officers who participated or were complicit in Manuel Ellis' murder still work for the police office. The Tacoma Police Department officers Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masyih Ford, and Timothy Rankine deserve to be fired. I understand that the Tacoma Police department is re-accreditation. They do not deserve to be accredited because they have participated in murder and making the community less safe.

Secondly, the demands that the Tacoma community wants are to defund the police and sheriff. We need to allocate this funding back into the community toward transformative justice because punitive measures have not been successful. Additionally, the funding must go towards housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare. Another demand that the Tacoma community wants is for ALL police officers to be removed from ALL schools, this only further exacerbates the school to prison pipeline. The last demand that the Tacoma community wants is FREE ALL jailed and detained people in Pierce County (Including immigration detention centers). During Covid19, it is a public health emergency that people are being detained and do not have access to proper social distancing measures or treatment. It is inhumane to continue jailing and detaining people always but especially during a global pandemic.

Regards,

Terlona Knife

**From:** Nolan Hibbard-Pelly <nolanhp@uw.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:11 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a member of the Tacoma community I find it disgraceful how much police actions have been covered up and not held accountable in the past. Keep racist officers off the force and do better for your city by funding programs like the local libraries, schools and social workers to actually reduce crime and not create it.

Tacoma can do better,

Nolan Hibbard-Pelly

Student of UW Tacoma

**From:** Cassandra Hirmer <cm.hirmer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:31 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Reallocate funds

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Tacoma City Council,

Please defund the police and reallocate those funds to pay for more mental health counselors and creating a team approach to deal with our community's needs.

Thank you, Cassandra

**From:** Virginia Phelps <vhphelps@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for City Council meeting June 23.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Tacoma City Council,

As a resident of Tacoma, an employee of a Tacoma-based company, and a graduate of multiple Tacoma colleges, I would like to submit the following comments for today's city council meeting.

- 1) Immediately reallocate funding from the Tacoma Police Department to areas where it has been statistically proven to reduce crime and improve quality of life, including but not limited to public schools, mental health services, and homeless services.
- 2) Immediately remove all police officers from Tacoma Public Schools. Data shows that police in schools do not reduce school shootings. Instead, they punish or arrest students of color at high rates, sending them into the school-to-prison pipeline. Tacoma's students deserve better.
- 3) Fire or suspend without pay all the officers involved in the lynching of Manuel Ellis, and insure that a thorough and impartial investigation is carried out by an entity not associated with any law enforcement agency in Tacoma or Pierce County. Manuel's community deserves truth and justice, and while his life was irreplaceable, his family deserves compensation for their horrible loss.
- 4) End all sweeps and harassment of homeless encampments permanently, and follow the lead of Minneapolis by creating sanctuaries in public parks for our unhoused community members. As long as Tacoma refuses to provide adequate housing and services for people experiencing homelessness, it is morally repugnant for TPD or Metro Parks to prevent people from camping on public land.
- 5) Immediately issue a city-wide rent freeze to respond to COVID-19.
- 6) Immediately take all measures necessary to insure that incarcerated persons in Tacoma are able to follow the CDC's socially

distance and stay safe during COVID-19. Review cases and release non-violent offenders, keeping in mind that people of color, especially Black men, are systemically overcharged.

Sincerely,

Virginia Phelps, proud Tacoma resident, District 1.

**From:** Meghan Hole <probablymeghan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Based on the recent happenings around the US surrounding the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, Manuel Ellis, and countless others, I'm writing to demand that council:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff, reallocating funds to community-oriented initiatives including community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from ALL schools, replacing them with social workers and counselors
- 3) free all individuals jailed and detained for misdemeanors and cannabis-related reasons

I believe that those actions will ultimately contribute to a healthier community where ALL people feel safe walking home, sleeping, going to school, getting groceries, etc.

Thank you,

Meghan Hole

--

**Meghan Hole**

970 819 3689

[www.meghanhole.com](http://www.meghanhole.com)

[www.thecreativeunconscious.com](http://www.thecreativeunconscious.com)

[facebook.com/thecreativeunconscious](http://facebook.com/thecreativeunconscious)

**From:** Evan Martynovych <evanmaee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments to the city council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, my name is Evan and I am a long time Tacoma resident. I wanted to share my thoughts and demands regarding the Tacoma police.

1. I believe the police department needs to be defunded immediately. Funding needs to be allocated to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. remove all cops from school.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce county.

--

Evan Martynovych, PhD

**Pronouns:** she/her

**From:** rachel haxtema <rachel.haxtema@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Concerned Citizen of Tacoma - city council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council -

I'm sorry that we are not able to attend city council meetings and speak up about our concerns and so I'm asking you please to pay attention to the written comments and find new ways to conduct city meetings so that we can all participate and be heard.

My deepest concerns are that Tacoma respond to the historical moments we are living in and take seriously the demands of the protests filling our streets - especially the demands of youth and Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

We must defund the police & sheriff! It will be better for us all to allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare. We know - you know - that the status quo is NOT working. There are violent acts committed disproportionately against Black, Indigenous and People of Color. We MUST stop this system. Start over like in Camden or at minimum defund and re-invest in the community toward better safety solutions that do not involve violence.

Please remove cops from all schools. We must create safe spaces for all children and the current system is not making kids safer - it is only targeting Black, Indigenous and Youth of Color. We must find new restorative and safe solutions for our kids and teachers. This will also help reduce the school to prison pipeline for too many youth.

PLEASE free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County - the affects of COVID are frightening and there are ways to diminish the spread and terror of those trapped in jails and prisons. We must release immigrants from the detention center - many of whom are hardworking and committed to participating in the community. They are not a safety risk but they are being put at risk of the virus and the news of the disinfectants being used rather than proper sanitation is alarming. Please investigate or better yet, release them. There are many solutions that are safe for the community that would allow you to release many in our prisons and jails. Please pay attention to the best science about confined spaces and the best options in terms of safe and legal release options.

I hope that next month you'll find ways for citizens to speak up at the council meetings and until then, please do your jobs and listen to written comments as that is our only route for participation in our city's business.

Thank you,

Rachel Haxtema

Tacoma resident

98406

**From:** Hannah Hibbs <hannahkhibbs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Voice of Tacoma- Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

My name is Hannah Hibbs and I am a resident of Tacoma, WA, a Tacoma School of the Arts graduate ('12) and I work for Metropolitan Development Council in the youth education department. I am a TRIO advisor, and I work with hundreds of potential first generation college students in Tacoma Public Schools. I am an advocate for public education as well as higher education. I am a champion for the cause of eliminating poverty, which is why I chose to work for MDC when I moved back to the Tacoma area after living in Portland, OR during my undergrad.

I am demanding that the City of Tacoma shows a greater commitment to racial justice by opposing any increase in the Tacoma Police Department's budget. I encourage the council to defund the police and sheriff departments and re-allocate city resources from police and into services that keep Black people safe and healthy: healthcare, mental health services, public education, affordable housing, restorative and transformative justice programs.

As someone whose work is centrally focused on educational access, I cannot help but be discouraged and disgusted by the presence of police in the schools I work in. Particularly when teaching staff face budget cuts, funding for necessary building renovations and improvements never seems to be enough, and when our Black and Brown students are faced with overwhelming obstacles to their success in school. Please help be a voice for progressive change in Tacoma and defund the police so that our schools and other community resources can be uplifted. Our youth deserve better, and they know it.

I am in solidarity with the following demands:

- 1) defund the police and sheriff
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

Thank you,

**Hannah Hibbs**

She/Her and They/Them pronouns

(360) 204-4993

2907 N Warner St

Tacoma, WA 98407

**From:** Bronwen Boe <boebronwen@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:45 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** City Council Agenda

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

As a community member of Tacoma I'd like to see reallocating police funds on the agenda. Based on the budget for 2019-2020 in Tacoma the police have 34% (\$175.4 M) while we still see our teachers being underpaid and homelessness increase. I want to see increase budgets for education, healthcare, mental health services, housing, community transformative justice, and counseling. And a decrease in funding to the police. We are a community that's progressive and seeking change, for decades people have been complaining about the mistreatment due to the police and there is no longer trust in their system. We must fund the institutions that bring us up as a whole instead of the one that creates a divide. I also propose extending training to becoming a police officer to a minimum of three years, constant deescalation training, and dividing up 911 calls to other systems better equipped in handling the situation.

Thank you,

Bronwen Boe

**From:** Rebecca Boe <rebeccaboe@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Reallocation of Funds Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

As a community member of Tacoma I'd like to see reallocating police funds on the agenda. Based on the budget for 2019-2020 in Tacoma the police have 34% (\$175.4 M) while we still see our teachers being underpaid and homelessness increase. I want to see increase budgets for education, healthcare, mental health services, housing, community transformative justice, and counseling. And a decrease in funding to the police. We are a community that's progressive and seeking change, for decades people have been complaining about the mistreatment due to the police and there is no longer trust in their system. We must fund the institutions that bring us up as a whole instead of the one that creates a divide. I also propose extending training to becoming a police officer to a minimum of three years, constant deescalation training, and dividing up 911 calls to other systems better equipped in handling the situation.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Boe  
2065505277

**From:** Heather Dagley <heatherdagley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Request for Implementation of Police Body Cameras | Please Share with Tacoma Leadership Today

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please share this email with the Mayor and City Council Members during their afternoon meeting today, 6/23. I am reaching out to provide my comments on the TPD. **It is absolutely imperative that our police force implements body cameras now, end of story.**

I grew up in Tacoma, moved to Seattle as an adult, and recently my husband and I selected Tacoma as the community where we want to raise future children. I convinced my husband that the inclusive community of Tacoma would be worth his daily commute to Seattle. However, learning more about the TPD and their recent response to the Manny Ellis killing, I'm worried we may have made the wrong decision.

Reading the recent [News Tribune article](#) on this topic, I was disappointed to see that the TPD has decided to let red tape ("vendor searching", union pushback, etc) get in the way of protecting black lives. Project PEACE was clear in its 2015 recommendation that body cams were necessary for the community... 5 years ago. How much public trust has been lost in those 5 years?

Are the police aware that black Tacomans are paying their hard-earned money into a policing system they know might kill them? This isn't right. Also, the memo TPD released calling Mayor Woodards a "theatrical politician" was absolutely disrespectful. I am 30 years old, and I can say that whoever wrote that memo is nothing short of childish and not fit to lead us during this moment. Young people are watching and absolutely ready to hold police leadership accountable.

I also want to commend Mayor Woodards for her leadership over the past couple of weeks. She is out there and directly speaking with those of us who are marching in the streets and calling for change. It's clear she is living her nightmare in the wake of the Manny Ellis killing, but she is rising to the occasion and demanding justice for Manny, his family, and black Tacomans. Keep up the good work, Mayor, we are here with you!

If you have any questions, I'm happy to engage in conversation.

Regards,

**Heather Dagley**

[heatherdagley@gmail.com](mailto:heatherdagley@gmail.com)

(253) 241-7036

**From:** Katherine Gladhart-Hayes <kgladharthayes@alumni.pugetsound.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the Police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing as a former resident in solidarity with members of the Tacoma community. It is essential that the police and sheriff are defunded so that money can be reallocated to housing, health, and education services. Furthermore, police must be removed from schools to create a safe environment for all children and youth, rather than one where students of color are threatened. Finally, I stand in support with those calling for the release of jailed and detained individuals in Pierce County; this is all the more pressing with the high rates of COVID-19 among these populations which need to be protected.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Gladhart-Hayes

**From:** Jess T <jesskthompson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** letter to City Council - re policing in Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma City Council Members,

I write to you to share my comments and concerns regarding policing in Tacoma.

First, I ask that you **defund the police and invest in communities of color**. Body cams are only going to record what is already happening. We need to stop ignoring assaults, harassment, and murder *unless it's caught on tape*. Body cams only perpetuate the idea that it didn't happen unless it was recorded. Body cams add more tools for police, they do not protect our community. If we think body cams are a solution they only are so in that they admit distrust of the police by those providing the cameras. **If there's that much distrust, don't simply record it for proof - remove the people we cannot trust** to serve and protect the community (ALL of the community).

Second, **remove police from schools**. Their presence escalates issues and criminalizes youth behavior as opposed to preventing it. We should not be normalizing policing in schools. **Invest in community youth development programs, counselors, more McKinney Vento liaisons. Invest to ensure students' basic needs are met. Invest in creating and hiring more BIPOC teachers.**

Third, the **bail and bond system grossly disadvantages poor people and simply costs our community more money**. We criminalize homelessness, mental illness, drug use, blackness. Our response is to put people in (very expensive) cages, rather than invest the money into ensuring their basic needs are met and they are able to access the treatment, care, and *respect* they need and deserve. This system has collateral consequences that disrupt families, education, and employment -- all protective factors when it comes to crime prevention. **Release people from jail who have not yet been convicted and who would be better served by treatment**. This is more cost-effective. It's a sad fact that people in prison receive better services than those in jail. Warehousing people to "get them off the streets" is a soiled band-aid for a problem largely ignored because I suspect it doesn't touch the comfortable lives of those in power and the people funding your campaigns nearly as much as it touches the lives of the community members you are here to serve.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my comments and concerns.

Jess Thompson

3819 S 11th St

Tacoma, WA 98405

253-229-8591

**From:** Conor Flannigan <cflann2011@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Council,

I am writing to share several demands that are shared by both myself and many in the local community. The first demand is that the city DEFUND the police and sheriff, and that those funds be reallocated to invest in community transformative justice, equitable housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and broader healthcare initiatives. In addition, police should be disassociated and removed from all schools in the city/region. There is no need for violence workers to be solving the issues of our schools and students... Finally, all jailed and detained people in the county must be freed. The bail system is highly inequitable and the city must take measures NOW to address/redress this issue.

Thank you,

Conor Flannigan

(253) 380-9630

**From:** Alexandra Osborn <alexandraransomosborn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23rd City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Alexandra Osborn and I am a classroom teacher in the Tacoma School District, as well as a resident of the North End. I have been following local BIPOC organizations here in Tacoma, such as LegallyBLACK, and I support the following demands:

1. Mandatory body cams on all law enforcement
2. Abolish Qualified Immunity
3. Expanded, reformed, and continuous training for officers
4. Continued psychological evaluations and background checks
5. Implement all 8 Can't Wait policies
6. Make police misconduct records public
7. Removing all TPD officers from Tacoma Public Schools effective the 2020-2021 school year

Myself and this community will continue to fight for these demands until they are met. We have mobilized and we will be heard.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Osborn

**From:** Jamey Voorhees <voorheesjamey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comments

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma City Council Members,

I write to you to share my comments and concerns regarding policing in Tacoma.

First, I ask that you defund the police and invest in communities of color. Body cams are only going to record what is already happening. We need to stop ignoring assaults, harassment, and murder unless it's caught on tape. Body cams only perpetuate the idea that it didn't happen unless it was recorded. Body cams add more tools for police, they do not protect our community. If we think body cams are a solution they only are so in that they admit distrust of the police by those providing the cameras. If there's that much distrust, don't simply record it for proof - remove the people we cannot trust to serve and protect the community (ALL of the community).

Second, remove police from schools. Their presence escalates issues and criminalizes youth behavior as opposed to preventing it. We should not be normalizing policing in schools. Invest in community youth development programs, counselors, more McKinney Vento liaisons. Invest to ensure students' basic needs are met. Invest in creating and hiring more BIPOC teachers.

Third, the bail and bond system grossly disadvantages poor people and simply costs our community more money. We criminalize homelessness, mental illness, drug use, blackness. Our response is to put people in (very expensive) cages, rather than invest the money into ensuring their basic needs are met and they are able to access the treatment, care, and respect they need and deserve. This system has collateral consequences that disrupt families, education, and employment -- all protective factors when it comes to crime prevention. Release people from jail who have not yet been convicted and who would be better served by treatment. This is more cost-effective. It's a sad fact that people in prison receive better services than those in jail. Warehousing people to "get them off the streets" is a soiled band-aid for a problem largely ignored because I suspect it doesn't touch the comfortable lives of those in power and the people funding your campaigns nearly as much as it touches the lives of the community members you are here to serve.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my comments and concerns.

Jamey Voorhees

**From:** hand panther <hand.panther@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:10 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma  
City Council Members,

I write  
to you to share my comments and concerns regarding policing in Tacoma.

First, I ask that you defund the police and invest in communities of color. Body cams are only going to record what is already happening. We need to stop ignoring assaults, harassment, and murder unless it's caught on tape. Body cams only perpetuate the idea that it didn't happen unless it was recorded. Body cams add more tools for police, they do not protect our community. If we think body cams are a solution they only are so in that they admit distrust of the police by those providing the cameras. If there's that much distrust, don't simply record

it for proof - remove the people we cannot trust to serve and protect the community (ALL of the community).

Second,

remove police from schools. Their presence escalates issues and criminalizes youth behavior as opposed to preventing it. We should not be normalizing policing in schools. Invest in community youth development programs, counselors, more McKinney Vento liaisons. Invest to ensure students' basic needs are met. Invest in creating and hiring more BIPOC teachers.

Third,

the bail and bond system grossly disadvantages poor people and simply costs our community more money. We criminalize homelessness, mental illness, drug use, blackness. Our response is to put people in (very expensive) cages, rather than invest the money into ensuring their basic needs are met and they are able to access the treatment, care, and respect they need and deserve. This system has collateral consequences that disrupt families, education, and employment -- all protective factors when it comes to crime prevention. Release people from jail who have not yet been convicted and who would be better served by treatment. This is more cost-effective. It's a sad fact that people in prison receive better services than those in jail. Warehousing people to "get them off the streets" is a soiled band-aid for a problem largely ignored because I suspect it doesn't touch the comfortable lives of those in power and the people funding your campaigns nearly as much as it touches the lives of the community members you are here to serve.

I  
appreciate you taking the time to review my comments and concerns.

Ashley  
Rivera

Tacoma,  
WA

253-249-4803

**From:** Aleiza McCant <jonisey@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:11 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please enter my comments on policing into the record today!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council and Mayor,

Police around the country have killed 120 people since George Floyd died.

Police brutality needs to end. Policing as it is, is outdated and we need something new.

Body cams are great, but they do not stop police violence. So I want them to film the abuse, but I know it won't stop it.

Training is clearly part of that problem and we have already tried to update training and culture and we see that doesn't work.

We also know through studies that non lethal weapons are more likely to get used if police have those. That doesn't make us safe either.

\*I demand we defund police and the sheriff.

\*I demand we allocate funding to the community for transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

\*Remove cops from schools.

\*Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce county who have committed non violent crimes.

\*No person should be in jail before trial.

\*Disciplinary records need to be public.

\*When responding to mental health calls, unarmed agents or counselors should be the only ones allowed to respond.

I will add additional ideas about how the city should work with the community:

- The city should let the community control the police hiring process, and make it clear that none of those new hired cops get to be a part of the existing police unions.
- None of those newly hired cops get to use military spec ops like chemical agents or military grade weapons.
- All of those cops should have at minimum 2 year degrees in criminal justice, counseling or similar qualification aimed at, and with overall community care in mind.

- All of those cops should have more time training in de-escalation than firearms.
- All of those cops should have backgrounds in civil or community service oriented careers.
- And if any of those cops abuse their power against the community they have no immunity. They will be externally investigated and unpaid while such is happening. And they will face the same penalties their fellow citizens suffers in our current legal system.
- They will be examples of what a civil servant can be, or they will be examples of how broken the system police helped build and support is.
- Continued full reviews should take place for each police station until the "old guard" is either reformed, retired with dishonor, or in prison.

We need to invest in our communities and education. We need equity and equality. I was at the Juneteeth march where heard the mayor, who I voted for, claim she would work on these issues. While I am happy she spoke to the issues, then I read a story on King 5 that one of the officers got a reward after Manuel Ellis's death. That is so wrong. Fix this now. We can't let this go on.

Thank you,

Aleeza McCant

Tacoma Resident

**From:** Illyana Zeski <illyanazeski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Response to police brutality

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I believe the city of Tacoma should put a lot less of its resources into our police budget and more into funding schools, free mental and physical health clinics for all, providing housing-first solutions for homelessness in our city, and, to combat gentrification, prove funds for local families to put down payments on houses and allowing sec8 or a similar fund to pay for mortgages. Let's invest our money in long term solutions, not short-term, harmful policing.

Sincerely,

Illyana Zeski

**From:** Tom McAlister <tommca29@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund and Disperse Funds to Transformative Justice

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, my name is Tom.

I am writing to you all to express my view that the systemically racist institution that is the TPD must be defunded and that the funds cut from TPD should be redistributed to transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare. It is time to focus on taking care of your black constituents instead of locking them up. Drugs are not a criminal problem. Theft is not a criminal problem. Mental illness is not a criminal problem. Homelessness is not a criminal problem. We will see no progress in black communities if we continue to treat them as such.

In the quest to raise up and take care of black communities, we must also remove all SRO's from Tacoma schools. The school to prison pipeline is one of the greatest injustices in the US today.

Furthermore, we must free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County. The Prison Industrial Complex benefits in droves from the incarcerated population, which contains a massively disproportionate amount of black folks and people of color.

Thank you for reading and I hope you will listen intently.

Best,

Tom Mcalister

**From:** Tacoma Protest Daily <tacomaprotestdaily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** On Police Reform

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, this is Tacoma Protest Daily and we are writing to demand a deadline date for police body-worn camera implementation. Throughout our City Council Study Session that took place today (Tuesday, June 23rd 2020 at 12:00PM) we heard a lot of rhetoric echoing common phrases such as "As Soon As Possible," but we demand a real date in which these policies will be fully in effect and implemented. We also demand unrestricted access to body cam footage so long as it does not violate the redaction policies that were laid out by our Police Chief in the meeting.

Thank you.

-TPD

**From:** Lindsay Davis <linzmarie6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Action must be taken

Dear city council,

I am concerned community member who would like to implore you to take the following actions as steps toward breaking down inequality in our area.

- 1) Re-allocate police funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health programs, counseling, education and healthcare.
- 2) Remove cops from schools.
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Thank you,

Lindsay M. Davis

**From:** Leah <leah.coakley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments on Manny Ellis for 6/23/20 City Council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

My name is Leah Coakley and I am a white Tacoma resident, parent, and voter. I've lived here since 2006.

I am writing to demand justice for Manuel "Manny" Ellis, an innocent Black man who was murdered by Tacoma police officers on March 3, 2020, like so many murdered Black people before him. Despite autopsy evidence ruling Ellis' death a homicide, the officers involved in this murder have not been charged and are still employed at the Tacoma Police Department. This is unacceptable. Administrative leave is not enough. I demand that these officers be fired and arrested for their crimes. I am glad to see that the Washington State Patrol has taken over the investigation from the PCSO, who did a pitiful job - but I wish it were done completely outside law enforcement, so it could be truly independent. I am also glad to see that Attorney General Bob Ferguson will be reviewing this and other cases of clear police violence.

I am also asking the City of Tacoma to show your commitment to racial justice moving forward by opposing any increase in the Tacoma Police Department's budget, and re-allocating city resources from policing to services that keep Black people and all other people safe, such as healthcare, education, and community programs. There are plenty of resources for how to do this based on the work of the cities who are leading the way - I can provide them if helpful.

Thank you,  
Leah

**From:** Leo Rain <leochenaultrain@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma Resident Concerns and Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Clerk Sorum,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Tacoma to demand action on the following items:

- 1) Defund the police & sheriff and allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) Remove cops from all schools
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

I also want to demand immediate justice for Manny Ellis through the firing of the officers that were involved in his murder. I stand with his family and the thousands of other families that have been deeply affected by the virulent police brutality that is so entrenched in our nation.

Thank you for your time,

Leo Rain

**From:** Morgan Vanderpool <info@morganvanderpool.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund Tacoma Police- Please your position of power for equitable community safety/wellbeing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council-

I'm writing to you with a passionate hope, and soulful petition, that you will actively participate in moving our city forward in an equitable and non-violent way, in which all residents, particularly black, indigenous and immigrant communities, have access to a felt sense of safety, and protection in the community.

Due to the oppressive history and actions of the Tacoma Police Department, and local detention centers, I'm writing in collaboration with my fellow Tacoma citizens, to petition that you expeditiously utilize your position of power and duty to implement the following demands for the wellness and safety of our city's people.

- Defund the police and sheriff and allocate the funding to community transformative justice collaboratives, sustainable housing, trauma sensitive mental health services, anti-oppressive education and equal access health care.
- Remove police presence from all schools.
- Co-collaborate within our city, and with other cities, to free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Please act swiftly, and choose to craft your budget and policies to implement a violence prevention approach; so that together we can have the resources to nurture the safe and interconnected community we wish to grow.

In solidarity & peace activation,

Morgan Vanderpool

(12 yr tacoma resident and clinical social worker specializing in restoration of complex trauma)

--

**Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW**

(Pronouns- They/Them/Theirs)

mobile: (253) 697- 0190

"Move at the speed of trust." - Adrienne Maree Brown

"When we pay careful attention to the present moment, we can trust that an adequate, adaptive response will appear."  
- Tom Borkevec

**"we need a r/evolution of the mind. we need a r/evolution of the heart. we need a r/evolution of the spirit. the power of the people is stronger than any weapon. a people's r/evolution can't be stopped. we need to be weapons of mass construction. weapons of mass love. it's not enough to change the system. we need to change ourselves." Assata Shakur**

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For Clients: When you choose to communicate Patient Identifiable Information by responding to this email, you are consenting to the associated email risks. Please note email is not secure, and I cannot guarantee that information transmitted will remain confidential.

**From:** megan.a.stockhausen@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for city council: Defund the police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing to show my support for defunding the police, and instead using those funds to improve mental health, substance use disorder, housing, and other community programs and services that will better benefit ALL people in Tacoma. We need to be investing in community interventions and making it easier for people to get the help that they need, rather than arming the police force against the people they are meant to be serving and protecting.

Sincerely,  
Megan Stockhausen  
Resident of Stadium District

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Asha Berkes <agberkes@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:45 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Defund Tacoma Police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Asha and I am a student at the University of Puget Sound, and a resident of Tacoma, WA. I am writing to advocate for the defunding of the Tacoma police department, and an increase in funding for community services such as transformative justice, housing and services for homeless folks, mental health resources and more. We have the ability to imagine and create a better Tacoma, right now. We can create a city that protects and loves its people. We must defund the police, and free those in prisons and detention centers. I want to live in a world where Black lives matter, where love, restorative justice, and community are more important than profit, violence, and hatred. This is an unprecedented moment of history, what side of it will Tacoma be on?

Thank you,

Asha Berkes

**From:** Kayla Hipp <kaylahipp14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the Police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a constituent of Tacoma (98405) sharing my demands for this city to be addressed at the upcoming city council meeting. A number of city and states have taken action to defund the police, remove police from schools, fire and prosecute cops who have mustered our black community members, and act for justice for black lives. Sadly, Tacoma is not one of the cities that have taken meaningful action. Yet.

I demand:

1. Remove police from Tacoma Public Schools to ensure the safety of ALL students.
2. Defund the police and sheriff ad direct these funds to affordable housing, mental health care, and education.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in the NWDC and Pierce County jails.

Thank you in advance for your action,

Kayla Hipp  
3319 S 7th  
Tacoma, WA 98405

**From:** Megan Barry <meganbarry87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a concerned citizen I demand that the Tacoma City Council:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff And allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all wrongfully jailed and detained people in Pierce County

Sincerely,  
Megan Barry  
253-961-4487

**From:** HIEN HONG <hienhong@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello council members,

I used to live in Hilltop, I am an alumni of UW Tacoma Class of 2015, and I work in Tacoma.

Please consider taking actions toward these demands:

1. Defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
2. Remove cops from all schools
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

Thank you,  
Hien Hong (she/hers)

**From:** Ruby Nugent <rbyn7@uw.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:40 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council,

I along with so many other concerned citizens of Tacoma are upset with the inefficiency of our current justice system. What is currently done simply brings greater injustice and poverty to our communities. You may have heard this already, but it is in Tacomas interest to defund the police and sheriff. The money that is cut from these budgets should be significant and should be redistributed to education which I am well aware has been facing budget cuts for far too long creating poor experiences for our youth. This money should also be put into counseling, healthcare, housing, mental health services, and community transformative justice. All of these things would support a community by serving people thier basic needs instead of punishing people who cannot afford them. Secondly, police must be removed completely from all schools in Tacoma. It is imperative that you educate yourself on the School-to-prison pipeline and like I've already noted, fund education and other basic needs to support out youth instead of push them into a system no one deserves to experience. Lastly, I demand that the council frees all jailed and detained people in Pierce County. These people should have access to all counciling/mental health servicies and other such basic needs to atone for the dehumanization they experienced within the justice system.

Thank you,

Ruby Nugent

**From:** Miranda White <mirandahugheswhite@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comment for 5pm council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and longtime Tacoma resident. The issues raised at protests sweeping the nation are not a distant problem, they are indeed very close to home, as the murder of Manuel Ellis reminds us - its circumstances so disturbingly similar to the violent murder of George Floyd that sparked this conversation. I demand that you all as Councilmembers take the necessary steps to drastically cut the TPD budget, and that you take the money from this defunding and put it towards strengthening housing, healthcare (especially mental health services), education and transformative justice programs in Tacoma, particularly for underserved, Black-majority neighborhoods and communities. I also demand that all SROs be removed from Tacoma Public Schools and that TPS cut all ties with TPD. School should be a place where children are fed, taught, kept safe and cared for, not somewhere where they're disciplined by law enforcement officers. A police officer cannot fulfill the role TPS claims SROs fill, for the sole duty of police officers is clearly not to protect and serve people, but to enforce the law and protect property. As an alumni of TPS, I feel ashamed to know that police are present on high school campuses. The data is clear: the presence of SROs on campus leads to worse learning outcomes for students: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40894-015-0006-8> here is a 2015 study elaborating on this topic. Finally, I demand that all persons currently locked up in pretrial detention in all Pierce County jails, in immigrant detention at the NWDC, and those incarcerated in prisons in Pierce County for misdemeanors, nonviolent charges (especially drug charges) and technical violations of parole and probation be freed immediately. Not only is it a violation of their human rights to detain them in these facilities, particularly the ones described in the NWDC, but the mandatory detention of these persons, though it does nothing for public safety, DOES represent a tangible threat to public safety and the health of detained persons as it is impossible to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a safe manner in these facilities.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to your implementation of these demands.

Best wishes,

Miranda White

**From:** Erin Lungwitz <erinplungwitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma resident public comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Clerk Sorum,

I am Erin Lungwitz - a resident of Tacoma. I am writing to demand that the Tacoma police and sheriff are defunded, and that this funding is allocated toward housing, mental health services, counseling and education.

I am aware that the city is considering allocating police funding toward body cams. In theory, body cams should hold police accountable and prevent murder, but many people have been killed by police on camera and nothing has been done. This includes the death of Manuel Ellis. While the officers were not wearing body cams, Manuel Ellis' death was captured on video and officers Collins, Burbank, Ford, and Rankine have yet to be fired, arrested, and charged - as they should be. I understand that body cams are a hypothetical accountability measure, but this is not nearly enough.

Further, I demand that the Tacoma police are removed from all Tacoma schools, and that all jailed and detained people in Pierce County - where social distancing is impossible - are freed.

Thank you for your time!

Erin

**From:** Nika Daschinskaya <ndaschinskaya@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Police reform

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

My name is Veronika Dashchinskaya, I live in Tacoma 98406.

I want to hear about the actions you're going to undertake to:

1) Redistribute police budget to fund black communities in Tacoma:

- what budget cuts are you proposing?
- where will this money really be going to go?

2) Introduce police body cameras and make it illegal to cover the badge number

- I know you've started working on this, but when can we expect this to be implemented and where will the budget for the new technology, cloud space, and admin will come from?

Thank you,

Veronika Dashchinskaya

**From:** Michael Fitzgerald <michaelfitzger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Manuel Ellis

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am curious of the status of what the city is doing in response to the killing of Manuel Ellis. We have had ongoing protests and events and things have been going about as slow as they always do in these cases.

According to this article in the Seattle Times which I have linked below, Gov. Jay Inslee says Tacoma PD did not comply with Initiative 940. How could this happen and what will prevent this from happening in the future? Are there any consequences for police who are not following the law?

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/inslee-orders-new-investigation-into-killing-of-manuel-ellis-by-tacoma-police/#:~:text=Ellis%20was%20killed%20March%203,woman%20filming%20the%20video%20yells.>

**From:** Larissa Lief <lalulief@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Tuesday, June 23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mayor Woodards, City Council Members,

I, as a citizen of Tacoma, would like to echo the following demands:

1. Defund the police and the sheriff. Then allocate the funds to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove police officers (of all kinds) from all schools in Tacoma.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

These demands are important to me, because I value my community here in Tacoma. I would expect our city council and mayor to do the same. Tacoma is a strong and resilient community that is seeking to see our values reflected in your actions. We elected you. You should represent us. I hope you listen to your community.

Thank you for your time.

Larissa Lief

608 N Puget Sound Ave

Tacoma, WA 98416

(916)792-2365

**From:** Tynan Ramm-Granberg <tynan.granberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:24 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for Council meeting on 6/23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Councilmembers,

I am quoting my wife Adrienne Ramm-Granberg below, who wrote to you earlier today. I fully endorse everything she has outlined, including reallocation of funds from the Tacoma PD and removal of police from Tacoma schools.

Thank you for your time,

Tynan Ramm-Granberg

304 Tacoma Ave S

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You have an opportunity before you to do right by our community. Families and communities impacted by police violence, over-policing, and incarceration - particularly Black and Indigenous communities - have been sounding the alarm for years and telling you what needs to be done to reverse the harms done by our racist criminal justice system. For the first time, many in Tacoma, Washington state, and around the country are listening and following their lead. Organizers and people directly impacted by racism have done the work of drawing attention to these critical issues and offering solutions; now it's up to you to find the political will to enact policies that will create meaningful, lasting change.

I'm very concerned that the conversation around police accountability in Tacoma has quickly turned to increased funding for police body cameras and training for officers. More resources in the hands of police is *not* the answer. We have plenty of evidence from other cities that show these measures do not eliminate police violence. Systemic problems cannot be fixed with individual-level solutions. Instead, I call on the Council to **drastically reduce the Tacoma Police Department budget and use those funds to help address conditions that give rise to social problems. We need to invest in housing, health, local food systems, education, and community transformative justice.** And we need to make these investments in a way that acknowledges and actively addresses both historical and current racial inequities in Tacoma and Pierce County. Further, **I call on the Council to work with Tacoma School District to end police presence in our schools immediately.**

Lastly, defunding and working toward dismantling our system of policing is just the start of addressing issues of racial inequity in Tacoma. For example, we must also work toward abolishing incarceration, which is an inhumane and ineffective method of fixing social problems. The Council should take **immediate steps to release all people from local and county jails and renew efforts to close the NW Detention Center (ICE Processing Center)**.

Tacoma will be a healthier, more vibrant community for all if we address the root causes of our social problems rather than trying to fix them with policing and imprisonment. Now is the time for bold leadership and decisive action. If you are not up to the task, step down and let others lead.

**From:** maddie\_greeley@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** DEFUND THE MF POLICE

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

DEFUND THE POLICE!!!! REDISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THE COMMUNITY. TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE. THEY ARE HUMANS TOO. TO HOUSING. YOU DON'T WANT HOMELESS PEOPLE LIVING IN TENTS UNDER THE HIGHWAY? THEN CREATE FREE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR FOLKS WHO DON'T GET THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OTHERS TO PAY RENT. FUND MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES. THERAPY SHOULD BE FREEEEEEEE! HEALTHCARE SHOULD BE FREEEE. EDUCATION SHOULD BE FREEE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. DEFUND THE POLICE!!!! FREE ALL JAILED AND DETAINED PEOPLE IN PIERCE COUNTY. REMOVE COPS FROM SCHOOLS. KIDS ARE NOT CRIMINALS. PEOPLE ARE NOT DISPOSABLE. PLLZZZZZZZZZ

**From:** Erin Chamberlin <erin.chamberlin11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please defund the police and take cops out of the public schools.

It's time for a change and we need to do this.

Thank you

Erin  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bi Irizarry <thisbeautifulsoul@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:21 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments & Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this because I am deeply concerned with how justice is NOT being served in the city of Tacoma.

I demand that in response to the recent outcome of the unjust death of Manuel Ellis in addition to many other instances in which the Tacoma Police Department have mishandled and abused citizens, the entire Pierce County Police Department be DEFUNDED.

In addition to defunding the police, I DEMAND that funds be allocated to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.

I also DEMAND that cops be removed from ALL schools as education needs to be top priority instead of instilling fear within students.

Please take a moment to consider first, search your heart, and then implement these demands.

There are many of us who are fighting for justice and we are not going to lose hope or stop fighting in whatever way we can.

No justice, no peace

Bi Irizarry

**From:** Eileen Newton <mammyde2@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:20 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Policing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello my name is Eileen Newton and I am writing in concerns about how we police in this city and in this country. Many things need to be changed and many things need to be done. Here are the demands as of right now, be prepared for more in the future. We owe much to many.

Demands:

- 1) defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling (including drug counseling), education, and health care.
- 2) remove cops from all schools.
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County, including the Northwest Detention Center, a private prison right in our back yard.

These are only a few of the changes that need to be made to strengthen our communities and protect our the lives of our Black and Brown neighbors rather than separating families and continuing to oppress them like that of our ancestors.

Thank you for reading.

Eileen Newton

**From:** Jasmine Litt <jasminelitt10@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Implementation of Body Cams

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon City Clerk,

As a concerned member of the city of Tacoma I am reaching out to plead that we implement the outfitting our authorities with body cameras. As a community we need a set date for no later than July 7th to implement body cams to be worn by all officers.

I am aware there will be a meeting at 5pm today and there is no better time than now to kick off the start of holding our officers accountable.

It is so detrimental to the future of our great city that enforce this change today! It is our human right to feel safe and seek safety from authorities.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Litt

Tacoma, Washington

**From:** Alex MW Pemoulie <amagwheels@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for city council meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I'm writing as a citizen of Tacoma and I would like to make the following demands of the city council:

1. I demand that you defund the police & sheriff and allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and health care.
2. I demand that you remove all cops from all schools.
3. In light of COVID-19, I demand that you free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Thank you!

Alex Pemoulie

--  
alex mw pemoulie | [amagwheels@gmail.com](mailto:amagwheels@gmail.com) | (c) 206-799-9890

**From:** Erin Chamberlin <erin.chamberlin11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** [\*\*\* INSERT UNIQUE SUBJECT LINE \*\*\*]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

My name is Erin Chamberlin ] and I am a resident of Tacoma, wa. I am writing to demand justice for Manuel Ellis, an innocent Black man who was murdered by Tacoma police officers on March 3, and so many murdered Black people before him.

Despite autopsy evidence ruling Ellis' death a homicide, the officers involved in this murder have not been charged and are still employed at the Tacoma Police Department. This is unacceptable. Administrative leave is not enough. I demand that these officers be fired and arrested for their crimes.

I am also asking the City of Tacoma to show your commitment to racial justice moving forward by opposing any increase in the Tacoma Police Department's budget, and re-allocating city resources from policing to services that keep Black people safe, such as healthcare, education, and community programs.

Thank you,

Erin Chamberlin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Angela W. <ajohnson0301@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Leading By Example

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon !

My name is Angela Wilson . I am a current resident of Tacoma, WA . I grew up on 14th and Prospect, attended schools within the Tacoma School District, and have also worked in the city . I am born and raised here . Now I am an adult with three children . Mind you, I moved to the South in 2013 and always made plans to come back for my children, I have always felt Tacoma was an ideal city to raise a family . We recently moved back to WA last fall . I am also a biracial woman who identifies as black . I come from a black woman who has credibility in this city . I have black family members and also white family members with great credibility behind their names . Today my goal within this email is to take a stance . I am not a protester, or an activist . Simply put, I am a black woman with a black family who has a huge problem in the part that the city I love plays in the current issues that have surfaced yet again like how they have over the course of time . Washington State is not known for much, nor is Tacoma for that matter . This email is not to tell anyone to do anything but to suggest that the city council takes what is being done into their own hands to make a drastic yet positive change in the right direction . I strongly urge the city to do the right thing . We can start by defunding the police department, but do not stop there. There is so much more that needs to be done and I am sure you all are aware. Troubleshooting in my honest opinion should not be a problem . There is an obvious issue and an obvious resolution here . Its just a matter of you all having the courage, the compassion, the empathy, etc to do it ! I am not here to say Black Lives Matter or All Lives Matter . As of right now, the fight is to protect the black community because it is the current target . Over many many years, lives of all colors and shapes have been tragically taken by people who are told they are here to protect humanity . WE ARE ALL HUMAN, WE ARE ALL ONE, MY SKIN COLOR VERSUS ANOTHER SHOULD NOT DETERMINE HOW I SHOULD BE TREATED.

"Stand for nothing and you will fall for everything."

Take a stance with your community, with your city, with your people . Be good to us, lets be good to each other .

Let Tacoma Washington set the bar .

Set the example for the world to see .

Thank you for your time .

**From:** Emily Monahan <egmonahan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting Written Statement Jun 23rd

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council,

My name is Emily Monahan. I am in support of the movement to defund Tacoma's police department & sheriff department in favor of funding community services, education, healthcare, housing, mental health services, & counseling services.

Thank you for your time,

Emily Monahan

**From:** Orion Benedict <o.rose.benedict@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment 6/23: Defund the Police and Resource Our Communities

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am writing to publicly comment on your meeting today. In solidarity with Tacoma communities, I ask that you use your power to make the following demands a reality:

- 1. Defund the police and sheriff. Reallocate the exorbitant funds that the police receive to community-led transformative justice efforts, fair housing, education, and to mental health and healthcare services that respect patient's autonomy and don't function as a re-branded version of the police.**
- 2. Remove all police officers from schools.**
- 3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.**

I hope you will take our demands to heart. For many, these changes are a literal matter of life and death. They must be fully realized in order for our city to take any meaningful anti-racist stance and for our communities to begin the long process of building social frameworks based on respect, consent, and mutual aid. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Orion B.  
Tacoma Community Member

**From:** Abolitionists Pierce County <abolitionistspc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** community demands for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Manager Pauli, Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

The Abolitionists of Pierce County demand that you:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

We also want to uplift the demands of the Ellis family as they seek justice for the wrongful murder of Manuel Ellis:

- 1) fire, arrest and charge the Tacoma police officers involved in Manny's murder: Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masiyah Ford, and Timothy Rankine
- 2) Investigate the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department to determine how many laws and policies were broken of I940
- 3) Officials complicit in the murder cover up to step down: Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Tacoma Police Chief Don Ramsdell and Pierce County Sheriff's Information Officer Ed Troyer

With regards to the Northwest Detention Center, a chemical called Sani-T-10 is being used to clean inside the facility. This chemical causes skin irritation, rashes and serious eye damage, and is not intended to be used within an enclosed indoor facility, as described in the [Spartan Chemical Safety Data sheet](#). We demand that health officials look into and act upon this matter that is causing further harm to a very vulnerable immigrant population. Four cases of Covid-19 have already been reported inside NWDC as well.

What is The City of Tacoma doing to ensure medical care and safety for these people and everyone else inside NWDC? We demand the immediate suspension of the operating licenses of Northwest Detention Center, and an end to all cooperation with Geo Group and ICE.

Last but not least, we would like to know why Tacoma City Council is choosing to omit comments being made by the public to be shared with the community. We are concerned that this suppression of public statements inhibits information, questions, and concerns of the public to be shared with the broader community. We see your role as a council is to listen to every comment, question and concern of the people you are serving and acting accordingly. Not allowing the public to speak to all of you directly via phone and video, or minimally share their statements publicly is suppression, and a stark contrast to other municipal councils who are receiving live comments within their meetings via phone, video, and written notes.

We have been consistently attending City Council meetings and noting many comments submitted, including our own. Not only have we not received a reply to our comments, but we have also been unable to learn about the comments our fellow Tacoma residents submitted.

Please respond to our questions at [abilitionistspc@gmail.com](mailto:abilitionistspc@gmail.com)

- Abolitionists of Pierce County

**From:** Katie Giseburt <katiemgiseburt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Justice for Manual Ellis means Defunding Police in Pierce County

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk,

There will be no justice for Manual Ellis until we take away power and ultimately dismantle institutions that will not stop murdering black people.

In honor of the life of Manual Ellis we demand that you:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

Thank you for your time,

Katie Giseburt

**From:** Angharad Hollingworth <angharad.hollingworth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** BLM demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Defund the police and the sheriff. allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare

remove cops from all schools

free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

**From:** Emily Kijowski <emily.kijowski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for 6/23 Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I submit the following public comment to Tacoma City Council:

I support police funding be redistributed to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

These funds would be better spent on supporting other professionals in the healthcare and social services fields as first responders instead of the police. The [Portland Street Response survey report](http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/believe_our_stories_embargoed_1568917525411.pdf) ([http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/believe\\_our\\_stories\\_embargoed\\_1568917525411.pdf](http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/believe_our_stories_embargoed_1568917525411.pdf)) identified many other professions as possible alternatives to police that could effectively and more appropriately respond to a large number of calls the police receive about those experiencing homelessness, mental health crises, or complaints of "unwanted persons". Including mental health professionals, social workers, EMTs, conflict resolution counselors, nurses and firefighters. I'd like to see Tacoma redistribute police funds to healthcare professionals who are better equipped to respond to and interact with their BIPOC members.

With the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Manuel Ellis at the hands of police, it is obvious that increased bias training and more stringent policies on neck holds do nothing to address the reality that police are not held accountable for their actions toward BIPOC members of our community. I'd like to see Tacoma make changes in police policies that aim to understand and better care for the marginalized populations in our community.

Thank you,

Emily Kijowski

**From:** Knic Pfost <knic@knownfor.solutions>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Another voice for defunding TPD

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council-

I'm writing to you with a passionate hope that you will actively participate in moving our city forward in an equitable and non-violent way. A way in which all residents — particularly Black, indigenous and immigrant communities — have access to a felt sense of safety and protection in our community.

Due to the oppressive history and actions of the Tacoma Police Department and local detention centers, I'm voicing my support in collaboration with my fellow Tacoma citizens, to petition that you utilize your position of power and duty to implement the following for the wellness and safety of our city's people:

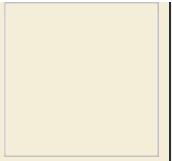
- Defund the police and sheriff, and re-allocate the funding to community transformative justice collaboratives, sustainable housing, trauma-sensitive mental health services, anti-oppressive education, and equal-access healthcare.
- Commit to collaborate within our city, and with other cities, to free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

These are big demands, and important ones. They will require creativity and effort to implement. They will require deeper conversations with the stakeholders that matter — the human beings who make up the 8 diverse, complex neighborhoods that your council has defined. The Tacoma I am proud to be a part of is the Tacoma that is willing to have difficult conversations. It is long past time to address the efficacy of our systems of policy, whether these are systems we've explicitly built, or tacitly endorse by continuing to allow them to govern our lives.

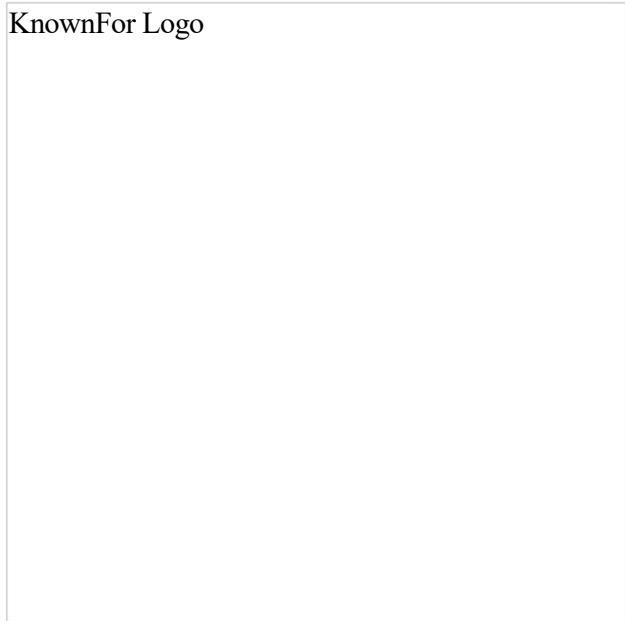
Please act swiftly, and choose to craft our city's budget and policies to implement a violence-prevention approach; so that together we can have the resources to nurture the safe and interconnected community we wish to grow.

In solidarity & peace activation (and four years into Tacoma residency),

**Knic Pfost**  
**CREATIVE PARTNER**  
knownfor.solutions  
253.237.2537 ... HE / THEM



KnownFor Logo

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, positioned below the contact information.

**From:** samuel mercedes <mastertrumpet1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Concerned resident of Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi, my name Is Samuel and I am a concerned citizen in Tacoma. As a person of color, I worry about getting pulled over by the police and they mistaken me as an aggressive or threatening person based on the color on my skin. I understand how important policing is to maintain peace and structure but the current structure in our police force isn't as fair and safe for people who look like me. There are a few demands that I personally think that we should do to move forward for a safe and sustainable environment for all of us.

1) Defunding the police: What does defunding the police mean to me? It doesn't mean that we need to get rid of policing completely. It means that we need to use those funds to help fix the core issues that are causing crime in the first place. We need those funds to go to the community that needs it. That money needs to go to education, community clubs like sports and arts and also use those funds to build better infrastructure as well. Defunding the police also means that we need to not only retrain our police force but split the responsibilities of our officers. We need different agencies that will take responsibilities on specific tasks.

2) Removing cops from all schools: School should be an environment where every student should feel safe. There have been many incidents where police were called to control a student and they end up being treated as if they are criminals. These are childrens, not criminals. It's understandable that some childrens react a certain way but using police tactics to stop a child isn't the answer.

3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County: This sounds very radical but after doing research on jailed vs prisoners, I learned that many who are in jail haven't been convicted and awaiting trial. This is disgusting because many are probably innocent but are too poor to afford bail or weren't granted for bail. We have more people arrested in this country than any other country in the world. This is a systemic problem that hurts poor people, specifically people of color. This is something that fuels the fire in society.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you consider some of my concerns.

**From:** Sophia Munic <soph.munic@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment to Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

City of Tacoma,

During the past weeks I have been protesting in Tacoma and working on educating myself to how we can collectively work to make our city of destiny anti-racist. This starts with these demands:

I in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement am demanding:

1. For the city of Tacoma to Defund the police and the sheriff, and to reallocate those funds to community lead initiative in transformative justice, affordable housing, mental health services, education, and affordable healthcare for Tacoma residents.
2. To remove the presences of all police and sheriffs from all schools. As well as making sure that there are nurses and counselors in all schools.
3. To free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Tacoma is calling out for justice. Will you listen?

Best,

Sophia Munic

**From:** Amy QV <amyvan08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment Submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Amy Van and I am a resident in 98404. I write to demand the following:

- 1) For the City of Tacoma to defund TPD & Sheriff Department and reallocate funds to crucial human services including affordable housing, homeless prevention, mental health counselors, bolster health care services across low-income communities; educational supports for Tacoma Public Schools students.
- 2) For the removal of TPD and cops from all Tacoma Public Schools and replace them all with counselors and mentors.
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County who have no access to health care and safety within the facilities.
- 4) For the city to release all data on the demographics and statistics of Tacoma/Pierce county incarcerated population onto its website.

Thank You,

Amy

**From:** Julia Shimanskiy <jshimanskiy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a long time resident of Tacoma, WA -- my Black and other POC neighbors are incredibly important to me. We have failed them, repeatedly. We need to change as a society, as a community. I demand that city council implements the following:

(1) Significantly defund the police (50% cut) & sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.

(2) Remove cops from ALL SCHOOLS. I have personally had terrifying experiences with cops at school while I attended Foss High School and always feared to mention it. I'm a white female. I cannot imagine what my POC fellow students have experienced over the years. We do not need cops in schools. We need more teachers, more counselors, more mental health options, more after school activities and programs, more funding to mold successful students from all racial backgrounds. We can do better.

(3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

WE HAVE TO DO BETTER. We can.

**Julia Shimanskiy** (she/her)

[jshimanskiy@gmail.com](mailto:jshimanskiy@gmail.com)

**From:** Ciara Richardson <ciaralyn.richardson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** DEFUND NOW

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

DEFUND THE POLICE & SHERIFF!

Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, counseling, EDUCATION and healthcare!

Remove all cops from schools!

FREE all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

--

### **Ciara Richardson, CD(BIA)**

Birth Doula & Photographer || 253.245.6079

Wisteria Birth Services || [ciarascarlett.com](http://ciarascarlett.com)

*Preferred pronouns are She/Her*

*By sharing my pronouns, I hope to create a safe space for others to share theirs*

**From:** Jin Moon <shinji.moon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Justice for Manny

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Jin Moon and I am living in Gig Harbor, though I am mostly a resident of Tacoma, WA. I'm calling in anger and sadness at the horrendous murder of Manuel Ellis, and the lack of city accountability for his death.

We must defund the Tacoma Police Department, and redistribute the funds to community organizations—including organizations that work in restorative/transformative justice models rather than punitive prison models, housing for the homeless crisis in Tacoma, mental health services, trauma-informed and race-informed therapists and counselors, education, and healthcare for the community. When folks have the resources that they need, there is no need for police.

We demand that you remove all cops from Tacoma public schools.

We demand that you free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County, including the NorthWest Detention Center, which is an atrocious scar of human rights violations right here.

Looking forward to the city council meeting tonight at 5. I'll see you there.

With care,

Jin

--

Jin Moon

(they/them)

@littleginkgoleaf

**From:** Emily T <emilyvictoriatant@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23rd City Council Meeting Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello City Council,

My name is Emily Tant & I reside in the Stadium District of Tacoma. I am in support of the movement to defund Tacoma's police department & sheriff department in favor of community transformative justice, education, healthcare, housing, mental health services, & counseling services. My partner is a teacher and we agree that all cops should be removed from schools and this funding should be reallocated to mental health services that better support our students and families. I also believe that it is fundamental we release detained and jailed people in pierce county. In my experience working in domesticviomence services, jailing humans does not disappear our problems, it only disappears our communities. For the future of a strong and healthy Tacoma, I hope that we can work towards these changes and be a leader for our state and country at large.

Thank you for your time,

Emily Tant

**From:** Badis, Dalyn <Dalyn.Badis@stmartin.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Police Accountability

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Councilmembers,

As an advocate for survivors of sexual and domestic violence and as a graduate student of mental health counseling, I am deeply invested in community mental health here in Pierce County. I am writing you to show my support for the call to redirect funding from the Tacoma Police Department and Sheriff's Office back toward housing, mental health services, education, and healthcare. Policing disproportionately targets people enmeshed in cycles of poverty and oppression. If you are truly concerned with the health of our community, if you are truly invested in the Movement for Black Lives, your queer constituency, your neighbors at the margins, I would urge you to **invest in community mental health efforts in King County and divest from community policing which actively harms us.** We don't need police in schools, we need increased access to resources like mental health services, food, housing.

Together we can co-create a more just world for everyone. Please have the courage to build something new with the Movement for Black Lives.

With gratitude,

Dalyn Badis

**From:** Sheila Strecker <shlstrckr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

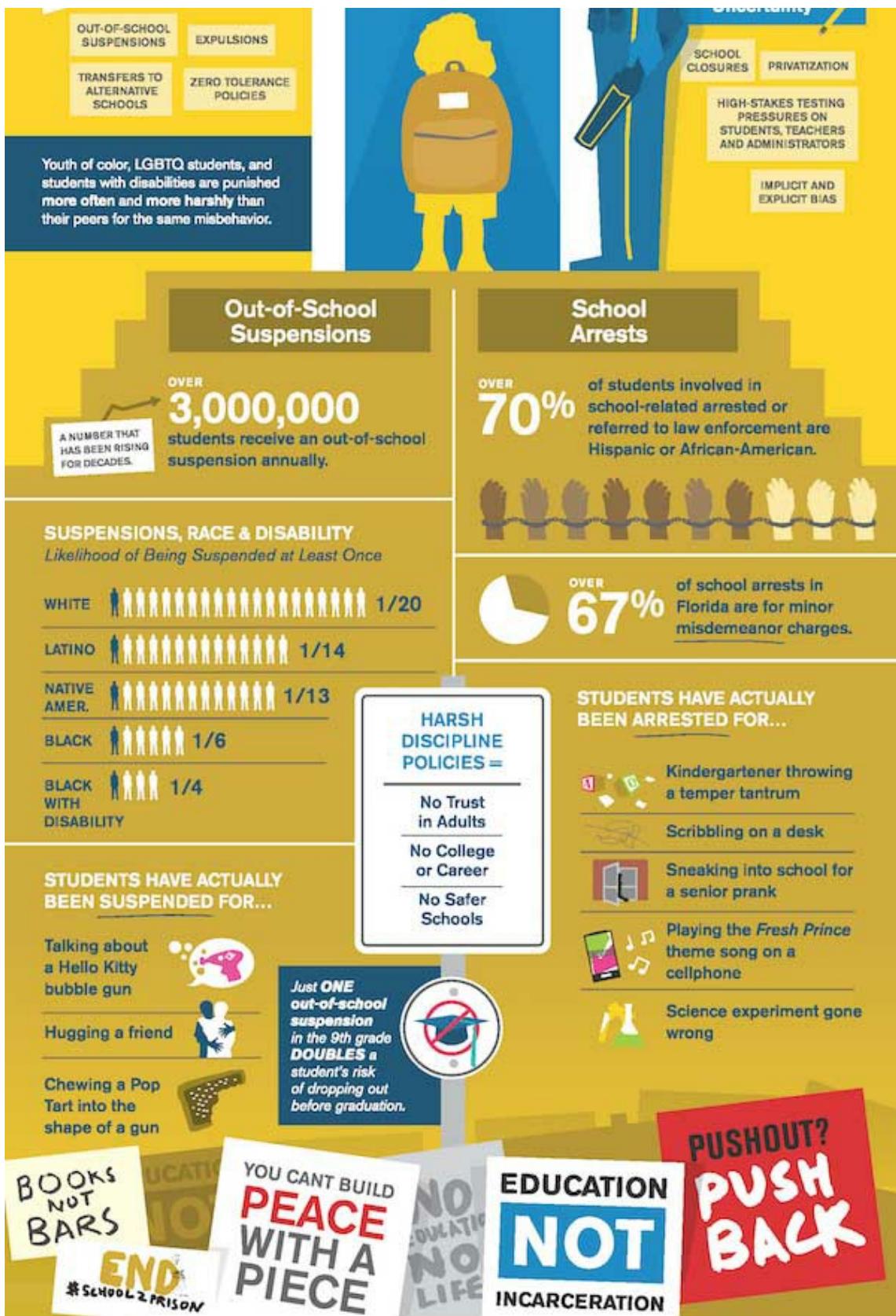
I'm writing to share my comments with city council, regarding Tacoma's police department. We demand the TPD be defunded; funding be reallocated to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, consoling, education and healthcare. How can a city such as Tacoma be spending \$180 million a year on police and only \$43 million on only community and neighborhood? We should be building our community, and giving more opportunities to those who are struggling.

Along with this, police to removed from school. I'm sure you are familiar with the school to prison pipeline theory, but if not I've attached an infographic for your reference.

I hope you take into account the amount of people who are demanding change, and daring to imagine a different, and SAFER way of living, where we actually look out for the health and well being of our neighbors.

Thank you for your time.





ADVANCEMENT  
PROJECT

Ending the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Track

[safequalityschools.org](http://safequalityschools.org)

**From:** Helen Edwards <helen.valmere.edwards1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for city council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

As a long-time Tacoma resident and in the light of recent events (especially the murder of Manuel Ellis) I am writing to the city council to entreat you to consider reallocating the money spent on the police and sheriff's departments to the Tacoma communities that have been historically over-policed and underserved. I ask that the city council consider transformative justice, equitable housing practices, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.

I also ask that the council remove all cops from our schools. Cops do not create an environment for learning, especially among black communities and communities of color. They have no place in our education system.

I also ask that the city council review our jails and prisons. Many of the people in them are non-violent offenders, and many need mental health services rather than bars. I especially ask the city council to abolish the abhorrent ICE detention center that is a blight on our city.

Our city has the potential to be a place that serves all of its people and its people are the reason that Tacoma is such an incredible community. We need to rethink our policing and prisons. I hope that the city council will join with us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Helen Edwards

**From:** joanna pelayo <pelayojoanna@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:34 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Our community demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

1)defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare

2) remove cops from all schools

3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

**From:** Juan La Torre <juanlatorre4art@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Policing in Tacoma Washington

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello my name is Juan La Torre and I am writing in regards to concerns I have about how we police in this city and in this entire country. There are many things that need to be changed and many things that need to be done. Here are the demands as of right now, get prepared for more in the future.

Demands:

- 1) defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling (including drug counseling), education, and health care.
- 2) remove cops from all schools.
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County, including the Northwest Detention Center, a private prison right in our back yard.

These are only a few of the changes that need to be made to build up our communities and protect the lives of our Black and Brown neighbors and not separate families further and continue to oppress them like this country has done for years.

Thank you for reading.

**From:** Betty Popenuck <epopenuck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Body Cameras and TPD Funding

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Betty Popenuck and I am a 12 year resident of Tacoma and a current resident of Council District 3. I sat in on the body camera study session today. It is disappointing though not surprising to me that the Tacoma Police Department has been talking about body cameras for four years and has already received/requested over \$2.5M to do research and testing - yet they won't give a timeline for actual implementation and do not even seem ready to discuss a timeline.

Body cameras are necessary because police officers continue to kill and mistreat citizens, particularly Black and Indigenous citizens, with impunity. The Tacoma Police Department and police departments around the country have made it clear that they cannot be trusted to do their jobs without constant oversight. The police officers' word is taken without question, despite the fact that they have shown time and time again that they are willing to lie to protect themselves. The TPD has made it clear that Tacoma is not an exception with their handling of Manny Ellis's murder.

While I support body cameras in as much as they can help protect citizens from the police (which is an unfortunate sentence to write), I also believe we should not keep funding and giving additional money to the police. In this case alone, they have shown that they cannot do very much, even with four years and more than \$2 million. I would much rather see some, if not most, of the more than \$175M budgeted to the Tacoma police going to programs that directly support individuals in our community. In particular, some of this funding could support programs for unhoused and low income residents, mental health and addiction resources, and education and programming for Tacoma youth.

I'd also ask the Council to question the efficacy of implementing changes that must be negotiated with the police union. The local union and unions across the nation have shown that they have no interest in working with communities, but rather that their number one priority is and always will be protecting their officers (regardless of the officers' behavior).

If nothing else, please involve the community (especially those most affected by police brutality) in the discussions around body camera implementation and all police reforms moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Betty Popenuck

Tacoma, WA 98405

**From:** Jenny Paul <jennypaul122@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I have been a resident of Tacoma for the past 5 years going on 6. The police need to be defunded immediately. There are a myriad of beautiful things we could put that money to - housing for our houseless and low-income brothers and sisters and siblings, better school supplies and programs for Tacoma's youth, rehabilitation programs and assistance for those in difficult situations. The list does not end there; in fact, it is infinite. The money we use on policing this community should be used serving it because we know that the police do not serve the community. The death of Manny Ellis is not the first wrongful death at the hands of TPD and I can assure you it won't be the last. We must defund the police now. We must remove police from schools, whose essential function in that environment is to feed children to the prison industrial complex. We must free our people in prisons and jails in Pierce County and support them instead of punishing them. We must learn to value life again. Thank you.

Jenny Paul

**From:** Indigo Dacosta <idacosta@alumni.pugetsound.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Requests for the Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I hope your day is going well. As a Tacoma community member, I would like to express the following requests in advance of the Tacoma City Council at 5PM today:

- **remove funding** from the police department and sheriff of TPD. Why couldn't this funding be allocated to community restorative justice, HOUSING, mental health, education, counseling, and healthcare overall?
- **remove police** from schools.
- **release** all incarcerated/jailed and detained people in Pierce county, who are DYING from Covid-19 at OUR MISMANAGEMENT.

Thank you.

Best,

-Indigo

Indigo DaCosta

University of Puget Sound '19

English and Asian Studies | PacRim 2017-18

[idacosta@alumni.pugetsound.edu](mailto:idacosta@alumni.pugetsound.edu)

**From:** Delaney Graeve <delaneysaul@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,

My name is Delaney Saul. I work for the Tacoma Rainiers and I am a proud citizen of Tacoma.

In my own experience in life I have seen people I love mistreated by police in Tacoma on the basis of race and socioeconomic status. Due to my gender, I have experienced aggression and ignored by TPD. In the following letter I will speak from my own perspective.

There is no excuse for TPD to not have body cameras! I repeat, there is no excuse for TPD to not have body cameras. I demand that you ensure TPD use some of their already allocated funding go to purchase body cams, footage storing equipment and servers, and hire at least 6 digital video / multimedia technicians to document and catalog the footage of the 334 sworn officers.

Additionally, I demand that we as a community change the system that has no impact on the frequency of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence against women. I have been ignored, berated, mistreated, and untrusted by the police when I have found myself in situations of domestic violence. I demand the city of Tacoma enlist peace officers, who have higher education - at least a bachelors degree, who are trained in deescalation, who take women seriously, who have studied and been trained to understand the mental terror of violence against women, and who can provide safety and resources for a way out of these violent situations. Ask any police MAN right now and he will tell you 80% of the calls they have on a day to day basis are DV or sexual assault. ( and that is a quote from the Sargent who I demanded I speak to, after two officers mistreated me on a case where I had been accosted and threatened by a random male citizen in a restaurant, case #2006501740)... And yet, domestic violence cases and sexual assaults have not decreased once, at any point in history! All of these reports and DV checks do nothing to change the problem. There needs to be another branch similar to the police, in prevalence and funding, but who actually help this constant terror for women. Please... please use some of the Tacoma police departments money, to create a new branch of safety, for an issue that takes up 80% of TPDs time and for which they have proven useless... and which they are not qualified nor trained to deal with. I am begging you to change this problem. Make Tacoma the blueprint for the rest of the country, where this same issue, is at an all time high too.

I demand that you remove police officers from ALL schools. Public schools are not jails or prisons. Schools are not a place for an overly aggressive, overworked, undertrained officer to be. Instead, I demand that you use some of the TPD funding to provide counseling to the youth in the public school systems. Additionally, I demand we incorporate into our public school curriculum emotional and mental management classes taught by licensed child psychologists. Imagine the impact on a child's life if you told them and taught them how to control their anger and their thoughts or If we taught them ownership of their minds and bodies. Please I beg you to consider this. And again, why not make Tacoma the blueprint for the country? We can do this.

Thank you for your time,  
Delaney Saul

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** miciav@sbcglobal.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** DEFUND TACOMA POLICE

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to submit written comment urging the city of Tacoma to:

- 1) Defund the Tacoma police and sheriff, and reallocate those funds to (not limited to) community transformative justice, housing, mental health, counseling, education, and healthcare.
- 2) Remove and divest from the police from all your schools.
- 3) Release all jailed and prosecuted peoples in Pierce County.

You have a choice to be on the right side of history and I hope you make that choice. Black Lives Matter.

Best,  
Micia Vergara

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Bennett Johnson <bennettj987@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Community member demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma,

My name is Bennett Johnson and I am a resident of Tacoma. I demand that we defund and abolish the Tacoma police department and that they are not awarded an accreditation. They do not deserve it after their complacency and lack of action after the murder of Manuel Ellis by the Tacoma police department. Once the police are defunded we should allocate those funds to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

I also demand that we remove Tacoma cops and any form of policing from Tacoma public schools.

I also demand that all detained people in pierce county are freed.

Sincerely,

Bennett Johnson

1301 S 5th st

Tacoma Washington 98405

**From:** Anna Moore <amoore40419@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** city council meeting 6/26 - demands

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma City Council,

My name is Anna Moore. I have been a resident of Pierce County for 20+ years and a resident of Tacoma for 10+ years. I support the following demands and hope you will do the same for the people of Tacoma.

1. Defund the police and sheriff. Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove cops from all schools.
3. Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County. This includes individuals being held by I.C.E.

Sincerely,

Anna Moore

**From:** Eli Steffen <elisteffen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to urge the city council to support measures to define the police and sheriff and allocate that money for community-based transformative justice and health.

Furthermore we must get the police out of our school and free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Thank you,

Eli Steffen (They/Them)

[elisteffen@gmail.com](mailto:elisteffen@gmail.com)

“Freedom is something you assume. Then you wait for someone to try to take it away. The amount that you resist is the amount that you are truly free.”

~Utah Phillips

**From:** Janelle Sopko <jsopko14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Reallocation of TPD Funds

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

My name is Janelle Sopko and I am a resident of Tacoma, WA. I am writing to demand that the City of Tacoma defunds the Tacoma Police Department and sheriff, and reallocates those funds to community transformative justice initiatives, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.

I am also asking the City of Tacoma to show your commitment to justice and safety by removing cops from ALL schools in Tacoma and freeing all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

These actions alone are essentially for justice and safety for all Tacoma residents, and will show you are committed to the people not just to keeping your offices.

Thank you,

Janelle Sopko

**From:** Mackenzie Rose <mack.rose0123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23rd City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Mackenzie Rose. My mother, before passing away, had managed buildings in and around the North End of Tacoma since I was eleven years old. I am 27 years old now and have always considered Tacoma my second home as my parents were divorced, I split time between Puyallup and Tacoma until graduating high school. Currently I am a resident living off of 6th avenue. I have been following local BIPOC organizations here in Tacoma, specifically speaking LegallyBLACK and I fully support the following demands:

1. Mandatory body cams on all law enforcement
2. Abolish Qualified Immunity
3. Expanded, reformed, and CONTINUOUS training for officers
4. Continued psychological evaluations and background checks
5. Implement all 8 Can't Wait policies
6. Make police misconduct records public.
7. Removing all TPD officers from Tacoma Public Schools effective the 2020-2021 school year

Myself and the entire community will continue to fight peacefully for justice and these demands until they are met. We have mobilized and we will be heard.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Rose

**From:** Colby Wright <colbywright44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Defund the police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council,

Black lives have been criminalized for too long. Police have gone unpunished for too long. It is time for you to make the change, defunding the police is necessary for racial justice. Remove police from schools where they target colored children and make them feel unsafe, make changes that support community growth and resources instead of police brutality and violence.

**From:** Nakane Monique <nakaneemonique@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Letter from a Constituent -- Body Cams

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

After participating in this afternoon's meeting via zoom, I write to you again to demand a deadline date for police-worn camera implementation. Throughout the meeting that took place on Tuesday, June 23rd 2020 at 12:00pm we heard a lot of rhetoric that did not directly answer when Tacoma PD intends to start implementation. I expect that you will provide a date by which these policies will be fully in effect.

I also expect a closer examination of what can be done to provide the public unrestricted access to body cam footage. I understand that redaction practices are in place, but there must be a way to have both transparency and to respect the privacy of victims.

I look forward to a firm date about the body cams and hearing what solutions you're able to provide as far as transparency is concerned.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

--

~\~ Nakane McCord ~\~

**From:** Benita Ki <benitaki@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:59 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I'd like to address a few urgent matters happening in Tacoma. With the police killing Manuel Ellis, the nation's eyes are watching Tacoma City Council's response to this incident of police brutality. As a resident of Tacoma, I hope that the City Council will respond swiftly and justly and answer to the people's concerns. Here is what I'd like to see happen:

- defund TPD and the sheriff's department. the police budget is overinflated and can be reduced to re-allocate to community resources working toward restorative justice, such as housing access, mental health services, counseling for low income folks, education needs, and healthcare access.
- remove all cops from schools. Tacoma Public Schools could really use the resources to help students, we do not need cops to reinforce unhelpful punitive measures.
- free all jailed and detained people in pierce county. COVID-19 is ravaging places like Pierce County jail and NW Detention Center. there are other pathways to restorative justice that do not place people's lives at risk.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benita Ki

**From:** Haley McCann <haymccann2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** June 23rd City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, my name is Haley McCann and I am a Surgical Associate based out of Tacoma, Washington as well as a resident in the north end. I have been following the local BIPOC organizations, signing petitions, sending emails & using my voice as much as possible. I'm reaching out to the city council to support the following demands.

1. Mandatory body cams on all law enforcement.
2. Abolished Qualified Immunity.
3. Expanded, reformed, & continuous training for officers.
4. Continued psychological evaluations & background checks.
5. Implement all 8 can't wait policies.
6. Make police misconduct records public.
7. Removing all TPD officers from Tacoma public schools effective the 2020-2021 school year.

Myself & this community will continue to fight for these demands until they are met. We have mobilized & we will be heard.

Kind Regards,

Haley McCann

**From:** Kali Kocdemir <kalilkocdemir@nicorinc.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Jeff Cook; seanalangton; kali.kocdemir  
**Subject:** Community Forum, Public Comment  
**Attachments:** Community Forum Comment Submitted June 19 2020.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To: Tacoma City Council

From: Nicor, Inc.

SUBJECT: Community Forum, Public Comment

Date: June 19, 2020

Dear Esteemed City Council Members,

We ask for City Council's time to raise concerns about a recently awarded public bid and the impact it could have on Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) and Tacoma residents. We respectfully ask City Council to review the facts below and assess if the award of Specification No. WA20-0115F is in the best interest of the City, and if not, to rebid in order to support the City's interests.

Specification No. WA20-0115F was awarded in May 2020 and with that award, an unproven product was selected. The product is slated to be installed city-wide yet has never been tested or installed within Tacoma Water's service area. Furthermore, the product is currently undergoing several alterations in an effort to meet the City's specifications; in doing so, it results in a structurally different product that no other city, nationwide, has tested or installed either.

This request may seem like a nonstarter. Why should City Council review the procurement of such a product? Why be concerned about meter box lids? Because the product directly impacts the effectiveness of other multi-million-dollar city investments. More pointedly, TPU invests millions of dollars into its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and this product impacts that investment. The water department's AMI System reads water meters remotely; water professionals commonly refer to their water meters as the department's "cash registers". Installing thousands of an unproven product never used by the City risks the long-term performance of the AMI System due to an unproven lid that could hinder radio transmission.

Other cities have learned the hard way just how much of an impact meter box lids have on their investments. We respectfully ask City Council to request a rebid of Specification No. WA20-0115F based on the below facts and their consequences:

1. Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) is extremely difficult to reduce to its component parts for reuse or recycling. An environmentally preferable procurement is outlined in Section 1-L of the original bid.
2. “Polymer construction composite material” is the original language used in Specification No. WA20-0115F and does not mention fiberglass. The original material was specified as a result of Tacoma Water’s own Business Case Study evaluation. The study concluded that polymer and composite materials saved the utility money in the long-term when compared to the cost of Worker's Comp claims.
3. By February of 2018, Tacoma Water began a rigorous two-year process to approve a produce aligned with the study’s findings. By September of 2018, the City adopted polymer/composite as its only approved material for replacement covers (see RFQ TW18-0357N) and removed concrete and fiberglass materials from the approved list for residential meter boxes lids. Nicor spent two years supporting the city to become an approved product. How can the City of Tacoma put one vendor through a two-year approval process and not all vendors? Purchasing a product that has not been thoroughly vetted is not in the best interests of the City.
4. From 2019 to present day, Tacoma Water has purchased and installed 4,830 Nicor meter box lids.
5. We'd highly recommend verifying directly with the City's AMI System manufacturer, Sensus, that FRP material will not impact the system's decibel levels whatsoever, even with the antenna going through the lid. Sensus will be able to provide an official letter to state their stance on this issue.
6. Testing materials should be aligned with the exact product the City is receiving at the time of bid; this will ensure that the lid is tested to H20 or ANSI Tier 15 with the rebar included. All alterations made to any lid need to be retested as this alters its performance— we have 15 years of seeing changes to lids impact the load testing and RF transmissibility of the lid.

We respectfully ask City Council to review and assess if the award of Specification No. WA20-0115F is in the best interest of the City, and if not, to rebid in order to support the City's interests. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kali Kocdemir & the Nicor, Inc. Team

Kali Kocdemir

(pronounced /Kay-lee/)

Territory Manager | Nicor, Inc.

C: 303.681.4304

A: Tacoma, WA 98404

E: KaliLKocdemir@nicorinc.net

W: www.nicorinc.net



To: Tacoma City Council  
From: Nicor, Inc.  
SUBJECT: Community Forum, Public Comment  
Date: June 19, 2020

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This request may seem like a nonstarter. Why should City Council review the procurement of such a product? Why be concerned about meter box lids? Because the product directly impacts the effectiveness of other multi-million-dollar city investments. More pointedly, TPU invests millions of dollars into its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and this product impacts that investment. The water department's AMI System reads water meters remotely; water professionals commonly refer to their water meters as the department's "cash registers". Installing thousands of an unproven product never used by the City risks the long-term performance of the AMI System due to an unproven lid that could hinder radio transmission.

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TW18-0357N) and removed concrete and fiberglass materials from the approved list for residential meter boxes lids. Nicor spent two years supporting the city to become an approved product. How can the City of Tacoma put one vendor through a two-year approval process and not all vendors? The process of accepting a product that has not been thoroughly vetting is not in the best interests of the City.

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We respectfully ask City Council to review and assess if the award of Specification No. WA20-0115F is in the best interest of the City, and if not, to rebid in order to support the City's interests. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Kali Kocdemir & the Nicor, Inc. Team.

C: 303.681.4304

A: Tacoma, WA 98404

E: KaliLKocdemir@nicorinc.net

W: [www.nicorinc.net](http://www.nicorinc.net)

**From:** Tori Brewster <torian.k.brewster@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Community demands for Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

- 1) defund the police & sheriff & allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

I'd also like to uplift the demands of the Ellis family as they seek justice for the wrongful murder of Manuel Ellis:

- 1) fire, arrest, and charge the TPD officers involved in Manny's murder
- 2) investigate the TPD and Pierce County Sheriff's department
- 3) Officials complicit in the murder cover up need to step down: Paul Pastor, Don Ramsdell, Ed Troyer

**From:** Ash Doak <ashxdoak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Invest in our community

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to defund the police and invest in programs that better serve our community. We need to fund alternatives to the police for addressing issues like mental health and homelessness. Police should be removed from schools in Tacoma and all of Pierce County. We also need action to abolish the bail system which unjustly ties freedom to wealth. We need to take steps to transform what public safety and justice look like in this community.

Thank you,  
Ashley Maria

**From:** Paula D in the 253 <staykindandunwind@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 6/ 23

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hey City Clerk,

Thank you for doing this work in our community. I am reaching out as a Female Entrepreneur of color. It can feel so heavy to live as free as Id like and I need your assistance.

Please open your hearts to another perspective. We are begging for the lives of the ones you live and love next to.

Please take action for those who have been unheard and overlooked for too long.

- Defund the police and sheriff and allocate the funding to community transformative justice collaboratives, sustainable housing, trauma sensitive mental health services, anti-oppressive education and equal access health care.
- Remove police presence from all schools.
- Co-collaborate within our city, and with other cities, to free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

With a visionary mindset,

Paula Davidson 25, Libra ♎

Cannabis Farmer

Licensed Massage Therapist

Climate Activists

Lover of our Land

**From:** Emily Ames <emilyames@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Adjustments Needed To Be Made for Safety of Community

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Manager Pauli, Mayor Woodards, and Tacoma City Council,

I demand alongside others in the community

1) defund the police and sheriff and reallocate that money to transformative justice that is community based: housing, health care, mental health services, education, counseling, etc.

2) remove all police from schools - it's clear that police cannot be safe for children to be around and especially unsafe for black and brown children.

3) free all jailed and detained people in pierce county.

4) the wishes of Manuel Ellis's family listened to and acted upon: the firing, charging and conviction of police officers related to Manny Ellis murder. An external investigation into all deaths in the hands of police and appropriate and swift action on firing/charging/convicting those other officers who have murdered.

Please consider the concerns of the abolitionists of Pierce county who have knowledge of the gross misconduct towards incarcerated and detained people's.

Thank you and please make the change we need to see.

Best,

Emily Ames

Tacoma Resident - 98406

**From:** Sarah Czarnecki <sarahj.czarn@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:57 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council, Mayor Woodards and. City Manager Pauli,

My name is Sarah and I'm a resident of north end in Tacoma.

I'm writing as part of the community to demand:

1. That all police be removed from schools to ad to better protect and foster a safe learning environment for our young people.
2. That TPD be defunded, with money reallocated to community-based avenues of transformative justice such has housing, mental health services, bolstered education, and healthcare.
3. That all detained people in Pierce Countu be released

Regarding the murder of Manny Ellis, I am also asking that

- the officers Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank and Masiyh Ford he fired.

-Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, police chief Don Ramsdel and Pierce County Information Officer Ed Troyer, all of whom were complicit in the murder and cover up, be asked to step down.

By failing to take any of these actions - especially the immediate actions regarding the murder of Mr Ellis - you are signaling to your community that you do not care about their safety or wellbeing and that you would instead rather uphold the status quo of the white supremacist carceral state. You must listen to the voices of your community not just by reading and responding to public comments but also by taking concrete action. If you ignore this, you yourselves are perpetuating violence against the very people you serve.

I will be dialing in to the meeting tonight and look forward to hearing this comment, as well as all other public comments, read and thoughtfully considered.

Regards,

Sarah

**From:** Adina Joslyn <adinajoslyn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting June 23rd

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Adina Joslyn. I am part owner of the Red Elm Cafe in Hilltop and have owned my home in Hilltop since 2005. I am writing to lend my voice to the issue of police brutality and the ever increasing militarization of police departments across the country including our City Of Destiny. I won't call the police because I do not trust the police. I don't trust them to read the situation correctly or react appropriately. I am against capital punishment, but far too often police here in Tacoma play the role of judge, jury, and executioner.

To quote Rashad Robinson "Budgets are moral documents." The police portion of Tacoma's budget dwarfs everything else. I am writing this because I think we have our priorities mixed up. We have many crises we are dealing with in our city. Many people do not have their basic needs. They don't have the base layers of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Food, Shelter, Water, Health Care, Mental Health Services. I join with the voices of many others calling to defund the police. With budgets gutted during the impact of the pandemic we should not continue to spend our precious resources on police to exclusion of community care. Don't let the biggest bully "the police union" from making real and needed changes. We need to jettison the police from our schools and address the school to prison pipeline. The United States represents 4.4% of the world's population and has 22% of the world's prison population. It isn't because our citizens are so much more lawless. How many of those people need to be locked up. Also what is the goal of incarceration. I know the tasks before you are heavy and thank you for reading this.

Adina Joslyn

Resident and Business Owner in Hilltop

Zip 98405

**From:** Caitlyn Cole <caitlynanncole@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** DEFUND TACOMA PD

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma City Councilmembers,

As a resident of Tacoma, I am demanding the following actions be taken by each of you:

1) Defund Tacoma PD - reallocate some of their funds to community transformative justice, mental health services, housing, counseling, education, and healthcare.

TPD is 35% of Tacoma's budget - more than all of the services above combined.

2) Remove police officers from all schools in Tacoma

Thank you for your consideration! I trust you will all do the right thing.

Caitlyn Cole

3608 S 12th St

Tacoma, WA 98405

**From:** Chris Karnes <chris.tacoma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public comment: Police spending; banning chokeholds, tear gas

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

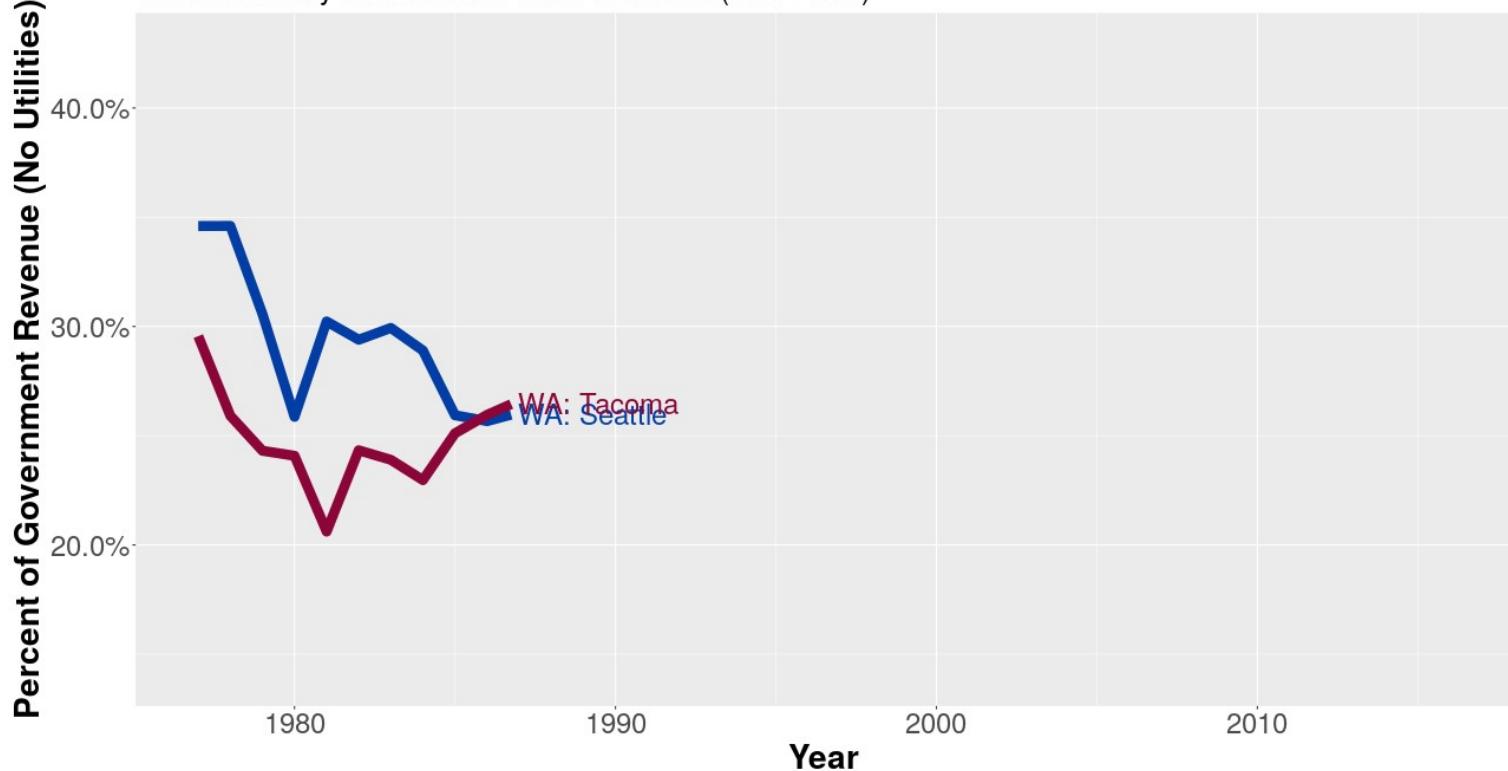
Mayor Woodards and Councilmembers-

To be very frank, the police budget is an oversized portion of Tacoma's general fund.

In recent years it has consumed in excess of 40% of City of Tacoma tax revenue according to data from the [Fiscally Standardized Cities](#) project. 40% of tax revenue means every single dollar of city property tax revenue collected and some of the sales tax. The animation below shows the trend from 1977 to 2016 of police expenditure as a percentage of total tax revenue collected by the city in comparison with the City of Seattle. It appears that the two cities diverged starting in the early 1990's and now have a yawning gap between them in terms of the priority of police relative to the rest of the municipal budget.

## Police Department as percentage of City Tax Revenue: (1986)

Source: Fiscally Standardized Cities Database (1977-2016)



The resources currently used for armed police forces could be reduced and reallocated to unarmed first responders to help resolve critical issues of poverty, homelessness, mental health, and addiction, as well as to make community investments that improve social equity. One investment to improve social equity I might suggest would be to wipe out "school lunch debt"-a concept I find to be morally repugnant. Relating to police regulation, the City should explicitly ban the use of chokeholds by law enforcement as the cities of Seattle and New York did earlier this week.

The City Council should also demilitarize the police department as Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Seattle are in the process of doing. This includes prohibiting government purchase and use of deadly weapons against peaceful protestors seeking justice for the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of color. Teargas in particular is banned by the chemical weapons convention in war and has been raised as a concern by the medical community for impacting uninformed bystanders who have breathing conditions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I encourage this Council to enact a ban on the use and purchase of tear gas, sonic weapons, and rubber bullets as Seattle has this week. There is a pending public disclosure request to better understand the weapons and vehicle inventory that TPD currently has. There has been substantial media interest in the contents of that disclosure request when it becomes available early next month.

I'll add that automated cameras should be a larger part of traffic enforcement and the involvement of armed police should be a smaller part. In all cases except those where the suspect is known to be armed, traffic enforcement should not use firearms. In many situations, simple traffic calming measures can reduce the need for police traffic on city streets while improving safety and quality of

life. It is a much better outcome to fix a roadway design problem once rather than to commit general government tax revenues in perpetuity to ensure public safety.

Other members of the public have important suggestions for how to fight racism and I encourage you to listen to them and to take them seriously. It is my belief that a part of anti-racist reforms should include adjusting the budget to reduce police expenditure, to prohibit the purchase and use of weapons of war on our own residents, and to invest in the people and neighborhoods that need it the most. Thank you for your continued service to the people of Tacoma.

With utmost respect,

Chris Karnes  
1416 S 8th St.

References:

Seattle City Council Ordinance banning chokeholds  
<http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4564635&GUID=C24883AC-5654-4500-AEB6-587DD1026742&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=chokehold&FullText=1>

Seattle City Council Ordinance banning the ownership, purchase, rent, storage, or use of crowd control weapons  
<http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4564636&GUID=90EDF5B4-7607-43BB-A99C-514C0B51CB56&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=chemical&FullText=1>

**From:** Katherine Phan <katherinexphan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Community Demands to City Council from Pierce County Resident

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

I am a recent college graduate from Stanford University, and was born and raised in Tacoma, WA. During my childhood, I spent most of my time around Lincoln High School due to my parents' local business. Throughout the years, I was able to observe first hand the effects of excessive policing on Southeast Asian communities and Black communities, as well as the lack of funding for public education, health services, and more.

Because I was able to attend a school in a district nearby (University Place School District) that was not heavily policed and benefited from greater funding for educational programs, I was able to pursue my academic interests without worrying about being harassed by school administration and local law enforcement. This, undoubtedly, helped me be admitted into a top university, where I also saw the disparity between policing of Palo Alto vs. East Palo Alto.

As such, I am writing to request that you do the following:

- 1) Defund the police department and sheriff, and allocate the funding to public housing, counseling services, healthcare, and **public education**.
- 2) Remove law enforcement presence from **all schools within the district**.
- 3) Demilitarize law enforcement.

As a Vietnamese American who grew up in Tacoma, I am proud to have been raised in the 253. However, I realize that I was "lucky" due to a number of factors that allowed me to pursue my goals safely, while many of my peers and community members do not get the same benefit of the doubt. I grew up seeing Black, Latino, and Southeast Asian students targeted by police—and this hasn't changed no matter where I go. We need change now, or students like myself will continue to be the exception to a deadly rule.

Thank you,

Katherine Phan

[katherinexphan@gmail.com](mailto:katherinexphan@gmail.com)

**From:** Tom Lowe <loweper@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** ICE Center Release - and Defund

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,

The release of ICE detained prisoners to protect them from COVID-19 virus is LONG OVERDUE. Let those peaceful, law abiding, people go!

I am for defunding the police by allocated funds to services the police should not be a part of and putting those funds into less confrontational organizations and personages.

Thank you!

Tom Lowe  
N. Tacoma resident  
206-569-8484

**From:** JUNE C Nelson <nelson0406@student.cptc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:54 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Remarks for Councilmembers

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma needs dramatic change to protect the lives of our Black and Brown citizens. Please pass my remarks along to the city councilmembers. We need to:

1. Defund the police and sheriff. They don't need an increased budget for body cams. There is plenty of documented evidence that shows body cams don't stop officers from murdering citizens. Body cams can be turned off/away or obscured to hide evidence of misconduct. Also, cops who kill civilians can keep their jobs and pensions and go uncharged with a crime even when body cam evidence exists to prove their use of excessive force. The system as it exists upholds and protects killer cops. Body cams and increased budgets/trainings will not change the system, and the horrific killings will continue.
2. Fund Tacoma's BIPOC communities. Redirect money in Tacoma's operating budget away from Tacoma Police Department and towards community transformative justice, healthcare, housing, mental health services, education, libraries, arts, parks, etc. for BIPOC communities.
3. Remove all TPD officers from Tacoma Public Schools. Children do not need to be frightened and criminalized by officers when they are trying to learn and grow. Children deserve a learning environment that feels safe and non-threatening for all.

I am a lifelong Tacoma resident, a graduate of Tacoma Public Schools, and a current student at Clover Park Technical College, where I serve as a chair of the Associated Student Government. I condemn the senseless police killings of Manuel Ellis, Said Joquin, and countless others.

I demand our city council take drastic action to transform Tacoma and be civic leaders in the movement towards a more equitable future.

June Nelson

Tacoma School of the Arts c/o 2010

Chair of Civic Engagement Committee, Clover Park Technical College

**From:** Nathaniel Leandro <khross30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 6/23/20

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I'm writing comments for today's zoom meeting hopefully to add weight to concerns shared by others in the community.

I would like to share my concerns with deploying police to local schools. While I understand the intent for police to be on hand to act as security, black students and other students of color are often targeted at far greater rates for incidents than their white counterparts. As a former student of the Tacoma Public Schools, and someone who has experienced abuse by authoritative figures in my childhood, I was always uncomfortable around the police at the high school; Their presence likely makes current students, especially those who fall under the BIPOC demographic, feel unsafe in an environment that should promote education and be a haven from oftentimes difficult home lives. Please remove the police officers from our schools for the comfort and safety of our at risk students.

Respectfully,

Nathan L.

98409

**From:** Jenna Judge <jennajudge2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council public comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council members,

Please take action to align the way our city operates and where you allocate the budget with values that support all Tacomans.

Please take action immediately to:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare. Reduce the police and sheriff budgets by 50% as a start.
- 2) remove cops from all schools, end all contracts between schools and school districts or other educational programs with police or policing organizations.
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County. At least those who are convicted of non-violent charges, are held on bail, or otherwise pose no direct violent threat to persons.

Thank you,  
Jenna Judge  
Resident of Tacoma, 98407

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Mu Knowles <mushawnk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:46 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Community Demands for City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Manager Pauli, Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

We demand that you:

- 1) defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
- 2) remove cops from all schools
- 3) free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County

We also want to uplift the demands of the Ellis family as they seek justice for the wrongful murder of Manuel Ellis:

- 1) fire, arrest and charge the Tacoma police officers involved in Manny's murder: Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masiyah Ford, and Timothy Rankine
- 2) Investigate the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department to determine how many laws and policies were broken of I940
- 3) Officials complicit in the murder cover up to step down: Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Tacoma Police Chief Don Ramsdell and Pierce County Sheriff's Information Officer Ed Troyer

With regards to the Northwest Detention Center, a chemical called Sani-T-10 is being used to clean inside the facility. This chemical causes skin irritation, rashes and serious eye damage, and is not intended to be used within an enclosed indoor facility, as described in the [Spartan Chemical Safety Data sheet](#). We demand that health officials look into and act upon this matter that is causing further harm to a very vulnerable immigrant population. Four cases of Covid-19 have already been reported inside NWDC as well.

What is The City of Tacoma doing to ensure medical care and safety for these people and everyone else inside NWDC? We demand the immediate suspension of the operating licenses of Northwest Detention Center, and an end to all cooperation with Geo Group and ICE.

Last but not least, we would like to know why Tacoma City Council is choosing to omit comments being made by the public to be shared with the community. We are concerned that this suppression of public statements inhibits information, questions, and concerns of the public to be shared with the broader community. We see your role as a council is to listen to every comment, question and concern of the people you are serving and acting accordingly. Not allowing the public to speak to all of you directly via phone and video, or minimally share their statements publicly is suppression, and a stark contrast to other municipal councils who are receiving live comments within their meetings via phone, video, and written notes.

We have been consistently attending City Council meetings and noting many comments submitted, including our own. Not only have we not received a reply to our comments, but we have also been unable to learn about the comments our fellow Tacoma residents submitted.

Please respond to these questions and comments at [mushawnk@gmail.com](mailto:mushawnk@gmail.com).

--

Mu Knowles (*they/them*)

**From:** Ashlee Day <aday44564@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Demand for Change and Accountability

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello to all City of Tacoma Government Officials,

I am writing to say that I am sickened by the way that the Murder of Manuel Ellis by the Tacoma Police Department has been handled and how little is being done to hold TPD and the Pierce County Sheriff Accountable. All of this is also happening against the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic causing detrimental impacts on healthcare, education, and the economy. Because of this, I implore you all to take action in particular to reconsider the funding the city chooses to allocate to law enforcement and dedicate funds to community services that will benefit residents of this city. In alignment with the Abolitionists of Pierce County I also Demand:

1. Defunding the Police & Sheriiff, putting those funds towards transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling education and healthcare
2. Remove Cops from All Schools, Black and Brown students are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement and placed on the path of the school to prison pipeline removing law enforcement from schools would be one way to take a stand against these harmful practices
3. Free all Jailed and Detained people in Pierce County

I will personally add that the Seattle City Council voted unanimously to strike "Drug-Traffic-Loitering" and "Prostitution Loitering" from their municipal code. **I would like to see the City of Tacoma review it's municipal code and remove any vestiges of policies that enable racist policing as well.**

In alignment with the family of Manuel Ellis, I would also like to make the following demands:

1. Hold the Officers responsible for Mr. Ellis's Death accountable, starting with firing them all
2. Investigate violations of I-940 associated with the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Office
3. Ask all those complicit in the cover up: Sheriff Pastor, Chief Ramsdell, and Information Officer Ed Troyer

I also have concerns about the Northwest Detention Center and the treatment of those who are being detained there. There are reports of the use of harmful chemicals being used to clean as well as insufficient medical care for those who are imprisoned.

I implore you to take action in alignment with the principles of the #8toAbolition Campaign and spend less on policing and more on investing in the vibrant community that is the city of Tacoma, information on how to do that can be found at their

website: <https://www.8toabolition.com/>

Thank You,

Ashlee Day

Cell: 770-905-4251

**From:** Sarah Destin <sarahdestin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Request for today's meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

In solidarity with Abolitionists of Pierce County, I am writing to ask that you address the following community demands in today's City Council meeting:

1. Defund the police and sheriff and allocate these funds to community restorative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove cops from all schools. School should be safe for all students, including black, immigrant, and disabled students. The presence of cops on campus threatens the safety of these students and creates an atmosphere of fear and distrust.
3. Release all jailed and detained people in Pierce county, including those in ICE custody. Incarceration disproportionately impacts people of color. Incarceration has always been a public health crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic it is especially inhumane to cage people in close quarters. Release all detainees to their families immediately.

These demands are vital to the safety of our communities. Please act quickly on behalf of the rights of the people of the city of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Thank you,  
Sarah Destin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Caitlin Lowe <lowe.caitlin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Items for Today's Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

My family resides in the north end of Tacoma. I am also a teacher. As our city council, I feel that you have a duty to uphold the beliefs of the community that elected you. Along with many other citizens, I have been horrified by the actions of the police. I would like you to consider voting in favor of the following demands:

1. Defund the police and sheriff by at least 50% to fund restorative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove cops from all schools! We need counselors, mental health specialists, restorative justice alternatives to discipline, and art specialists - not police
3. Release all jailed and detained people in Pierce county, ESPECIALLY those in ICE custody. Their status as illegal immigrants does not give you the right to end their lives with COVID. NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL!

Be on the right side of history.

Thank you,

Cait Lowe

**From:** Rachel Kunze Wilkie <RachelLeAnnKunze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Taxpayer Comments for City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thank you for allowing comments - I am discouraged that the comments are not being addressed by the City Council in real time during the zoom meetings.

My public comments:

1. **Defund police** and put that budget into actual community services, preferably those that are already working in Tacoma, for the good of the most vulnerable communities, by leaders IN those communities. I defer to my regions community leaders, who say that we need community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare.
2. Release all detainees at the Northwest Immigrant Detention Center. Geo-group continues to operate without oversight, detaining people without PPE or social distancing, spraying industrial disinfectants in populated areas, which are causing respiratory issue, and refusing to test or quarantine people before they are deported - leading to possible infections in their communities and households.
3. Please stop the predatory mortgage industry from foreclosing on houses in my neighborhood. There are 6 foreclosed homes in my neighborhood, and the services are out of funding and stretched thin to help homeowners work with their lenders.

Thank you,  
Rachel Wilkie  
6842 S Park Avenue

**From:** Miranda Hammer <mirandagabbyhammer@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:36 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Body cams

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern:

My name is Miranda Hammer, I live in Tacoma, WA, and I demand 5 key points to be addressed by the City of Tacoma immediately.

- 1) Body cams need to be used by all law enforcement during all working hours.
- 2) There will be no exceptions to when a working officer has their camera rolling. The "list" of exemptions will put others in dangerous situations that will not be recorded. At this time, transparency is more important than privacy.
- 3) There will be a clear timeline for immediate implementation.
- 4) Tacoma PD will not engage in a 4-month pilot program. That's how long law enforcement had to train for their job. How long does it take to put a camera on your shirt and press record? This needs to be done IMMEDIATELY.
- 5) Don't Increase the Tacoma PD budget. Use excess money used for weapons and gear to protect our citizens.

The cost of not adhering to these 5 requests will not be a total amount of money, but lives.

Please listen to your citizens and make us feel safe. Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** Brandi Douglas <brandi.douglas@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** COMMUNITY DEMANDS FOR CITY COUNCIL

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

In conjunction with the Tacoma community and as an original inhabitant of these lands (Puyallup Tribal member), I make the following demands:

1. DEFUND the police & Sheriff!!- Allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare
2. REMOVE cops from ALL schools
3. FREE ALL jailed and detained people in Pierce County

And that's not all--- I want to uplift the following demands of the Ellis family as they seek justice for the wrongful murder of Manuel Ellis:

1. FIRE, ARREST and CHARGE the Tacoma Police Officers involved in Manny's murder: Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masiyah Ford, and Timothy Rankine
2. INVESTIGATE the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Departments to determine how many laws and policies were broken of I-940
3. Officials complicit in the murder cover up to step down: Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Tacoma Police Chief Don Ramsdell and Pierce County Sheriff's Information Officer Ed Troyer

- Brandi Douglas



**Brandi Douglas, LL.M || Writer**

**Pronouns: She/Her/Hers**

**(253) 571-9799**

**[www.Multimatriarch.com](http://www.Multimatriarch.com)**

**From:** melissa <melissarenggli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Budget Concerns

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good Afternoon,

As a Tacoma citizen born and raised I am appalled at our city's budgetary use and slow response for change. These are my demands:

- 1) Defund the police departments outlandish budget and reallocate these funds to community transformative justice, housing aid, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare. Why is it that our officers are fitted for war against the people they are sworn in to protect and there are camps of people outside the church begging nonprofits for help. The community deserves better. We don't even have a city all inclusive resource of aid for the homeless. I am a 24 year old Accountant with a Masters degree and the homeless problem is so bad that I have taken it upon myself to provide aid. This is not my job, this is your job as the City Counsel to take care of all of your constituents, please do your job so I don't have to.
- 2) Remove all cops from schools. Our educational institutions should not be a feeding ground for children to be sent to prisons. Maybe if you spent more money on helping our children learn and deal with mental health issues and less on weaponizing the police then the need for police in schools wouldn't be there.  
To this point, are you aware of the reason cops were brought in to schools across the country? It is because of the mass shootings. Are you aware of how many mass shootings on campus cops have thwarted? The answer is zero. Stop treating our children like criminals it only holds back our community.
- 3) KICK OUT THE MASS IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTER ON OUR TIDE FLATS. How many times do we have to tell you that that corporation is not welcome in our city? We don't support the inhumane way that they are known to operate and we absolutely don't support it in our back yard. Put a stop to it.
- 4) Free anyone detained in Pierce county on a Marijuana charge. It is legal in our state now and even Governor Inslee agrees it is unjust to hold them for something we as a community have deemed legal. What is the delay? I would like an answer to this today.

I will be dialed into the zoom meeting and will continue to send requests for the above demands every day until they are addressed thoughtfully, seeing as that is your job. Furthermore as a constituent I will be sure to make note of which Counsel members address the voice of the community and will remember such on voting day.

Thank you for your time, I hope you listen to your community and use this time in history to make substantial change for the good of the community.

Sincerely,

Melissa Renggli

**From:** Jonathan Pottle <jonathanpottle@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:34 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Tacoma PD accreditation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am writing regarding the accreditation of the Tacoma Police Department. Accreditation is a seal of excellence, and I do not believe this department deserves such an honor. Four TPD officers were involved in the murder of Manuel Ellis. They used excessive force and eventually murdered Mr. Ellis, and have experienced no significant consequences. There are other stories from Tacoma community members of use of excessive force, racial bias, and negligence by TPD. These are not the actions and qualities of an organization that deserves praise or accreditation. Please do whatever possible to stop the accreditation process for TPD.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Pottle

Tacoma resident

**From:** Saiyare Refaei <saiyare.refaei@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** comment for Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Manager Pauli, Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

I would like to share this letter that was shared with me by the Abolitionists of Pierce County in hopes you meet their asks this week. You have an important responsibility to our community during this time.

*The Abolitionists of Pierce County demand that you:*

- 1) *defund the police & sheriff! allocate this funding to community transformative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education and healthcare*
- 2) *remove cops from all schools*
- 3) *free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County*

*We also want to uplift the demands of the Ellis family as they seek justice for the wrongful murder of Manuel Ellis:*

- 1) *fire, arrest and charge the Tacoma police officers involved in Manny's murder: Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masiyah Ford, and Timothy Rankine*
- 2) *Investigate the Tacoma Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department to determine how many laws and policies were broken of 1940*
- 3) *Officials complicit in the murder cover up to step down: Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor, Tacoma Police Chief Don Ramsdell and Pierce County Sheriff's Information Officer Ed Troyer*

*With regards to the Northwest Detention Center, a chemical called Sani-T-10 is being used to clean inside the facility. This chemical causes skin irritation, rashes and serious eye damage, and is not intended to be used within an enclosed indoor facility, as described in the [Spartan Chemical Safety Data sheet](#). We demand that health officials look into and act upon this matter that is causing further harm to a very vulnerable immigrant population. Four cases of Covid-19 have already been reported inside NWDC*

as well.

*What is The City of Tacoma doing to ensure medical care and safety for these people and everyone else inside NWDC? We demand the immediate suspension of the operating licenses of Northwest Detention Center, and an end to all cooperation with Geo Group and ICE.*

*Last but not least, we would like to know why Tacoma City Council is choosing to omit comments being made by the public to be shared with the community. We are concerned that this suppression of public statements inhibits information, questions, and concerns of the public to be shared with the broader community. We see your role as a council is to listen to every comment, question and concern of the people you are serving and acting accordingly. Not allowing the public to speak to all of you directly via phone and video, or minimally share their statements publicly is suppression, and a stark contrast to other municipal councils who are receiving live comments within their meetings via phone, video, and written notes.*

*We have been consistently attending City Council meetings and noting many comments submitted, including our own. Not only have we not received a reply to our comments, but we have also been unable to learn about the comments our fellow Tacoma residents submitted.*

*Please respond to our questions at [abolitionistspc@gmail.com](mailto:abolitionistspc@gmail.com)*

*- Abolitionists of Pierce County*

**From:** Ainsley Kelly <ainsley.kelly4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:24 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Requests for today's meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

In solidarity with Abolitionists of Pierce County, I am writing to ask that you address the following community demands in today's City Council meeting:

1. Defund the police and sheriff and allocate these funds to community restorative justice, housing, mental health services, counseling, education, and healthcare.
2. Remove cops from all schools. School should be safe for all students, including black, immigrant, and disabled students. The presence of cops on campus threatens the safety of these students and creates an atmosphere of fear and distrust.
3. Release all jailed and detained people in Pierce county, including those in ICE custody. Incarceration disproportionately impacts people of color. Incarceration has always been a public health crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic it is especially inhumane to cage people in close quarters. Release all detainees to their families immediately.

These demands are vital to the safety of our communities. Please act quickly on behalf of the rights of the people of the city of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Thank you,

Ainsley Kelly

**From:** Meredith Heller <meredith.c.heller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Body Cams

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Meredith Heller, I live in Tacoma, WA, and I demand 5 key points to be addressed by the City of Tacoma immediately.

- 1) Body cams need to be used by all law enforcement during all working hours.
- 2) There will be no exceptions to when a working officer has their camera rolling. The "list" of exemptions will put others in dangerous situations that will not be recorded. At this time, transparency is more important than privacy.
- 3) There will be a clear timeline for immediate implementation.
- 4) Tacoma PD will not engage in a 4-month pilot program. That's how long law enforcement had to train for their job. How long does it take to put a camera on your shirt and press record? This needs to be done IMMEDIATELY.
- 5) Don't Increase the Tacoma PD budget. Use excess money used for weapons and gear to protect our citizens.

The cost of not adhering to these 5 requests will not be a total amount of money, but lives.

Please listen to your citizens and make us feel safe. Thank you.

**From:** Priya D. Saxena <[priyasaxena23@gmail.com](mailto:priyasaxena23@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 6/23 City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Tacoma City Council Members--

My name is Priya Saxena (they/them) and I am writing to you as a Tacoma resident and small business owner.

**My request is simple: Defund and abolish the Tacoma Police Department.**

Tacoma is a city that cares about its people. We do what we can to support our community. Simply put, the Police neither support nor protect our community. I demand Tacoma City Council defund and abolish Tacoma Police Department and use remaining funds to house, feed, educate, and care for our community members. It's time to reimagine what a world guided by restorative justice and collective liberation looks like. You have the power to make this change.

Best,  
Priya Saxena

--

**Priya D. Saxena, MPA**

Founder | Equitable Future

Board Member | Henry M. Jackson Foundation

Master of Public Administration | UW Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance

(516) 445-0659 | [PriyaSaxena23@gmail.com](mailto:PriyaSaxena23@gmail.com)

**From:** visualaaron <aaronmatthewphoto@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Fwd: Body Cams

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Meredith Heller** <[meredith.c.heller@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.c.heller@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 7:44 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Body Cams  
To: [aaronmatthewphoto@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmatthewphoto@gmail.com) <[aaronmatthewphoto@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmatthewphoto@gmail.com)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Meredith Heller** <[meredith.c.heller@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.c.heller@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 3:19 PM  
Subject: Body Cams  
To: <[cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org)>

Hello,

My name is Aaron Matthew, I live in Tacoma, WA, and I demand 5 key points to be addressed by the City of Tacoma immediately.

- 1) Body cams need to be used by all law enforcement during all working hours.
- 2) There will be no exceptions to when a working officer has their camera rolling. The "list" of exemptions will put others in dangerous situations that will not be recorded. At this time, transparency is more important than privacy.
- 3) There will be a clear timeline for immediate implementation.
- 4) Tacoma PD will not engage in a 4-month pilot program. That's how long law enforcement had to train for their job. How long does it take to put a camera on your shirt and press record? This needs to be done IMMEDIATELY.
- 5) Don't Increase the Tacoma PD budget. Use excess money used for weapons and gear to protect our citizens.

The cost of not adhering to these 5 requests will not be a total amount of money, but lives.

Please listen to your citizens and make us feel safe. Thank you.

**From:** Elena Staver <elenastaver14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Black lives are precious!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I'm emailing to encourage the Tacoma Council to hear the demands of those who are fighting against police brutality and systemic inequality. I am asking for your support in defunding the police and sheriff of Tacoma, and re-allocating those funds to transformative justice in the community, mental health services, housing, healthcare and counseling. I also feel very strongly that cops should not be present in schools since they reinforce the preschool to prison pipeline and are not appropriately trained to engage with students, many of whom have already experienced prejudice from a police officer at a young age. I am asking for the counsel to remove ALL cops from TPS. Finally, I ask that you free ALL jailed and detained people in Pierce County, since prisons are another place in which people of color, Black folks specifically, are subjected to further trauma from an unjust justice system. Black lives are precious. Black joy is sacred.

Thank you,

Elena Staver

**From:** Brandon Hendricks <brancan96@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Citizen Requests

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Brandon, I live in Tacoma, WA, and I demand 5 key points to be addressed by the City of Tacoma immediately. We have to move the needle forward. I want the future of my city to be a safe and justice place for ALL!

- 1) Body cams need to be used by all law enforcement during all working hours.
- 2) There will be no exceptions to when a working officer has their camera rolling. The "list" of exemptions will put others in dangerous situations that will not be recorded. At this time, transparency is more important than privacy.
- 3) There will be a clear timeline for immediate implementation.
- 4) Tacoma PD will not engage in a 4-month pilot program. That's how long law enforcement had to train for their job. How long does it take to put a camera on your shirt and press record? This needs to be done IMMEDIATELY.
- 5) Don't Increase the Tacoma PD budget. Use excess money used for weapons and gear to protect our citizens.

The cost of not adhering to these 5 requests will not be a total amount of money, but lives.

Please listen to your citizens and make us feel safe. Thank you.

**From:** Grace Dunbar <gdunbar7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please Defund the Tacoma Police Department

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Grace Dunbar, and I am a Hilltop resident of Tacoma. I am emailing today because I want to share some demands with the hope that they will be discussed at today's city council meeting. We demand that you defund the Tacoma Police Department and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. It is my hope that this funding will be allocated to community transformative justice, low-income and affordable housing, mental health resources, counseling, education and healthcare. Please remove cops from all Tacoma schools because it impedes on a safe and healthy learning environment for Black and brown students. County officials have a responsibility to respond to the dual crises of systemic racism and COVID-19 by distributing resources that allow communities to survive and thrive. Solutions can not revolve around criminalization, jail time, houseless encampment sweeps, or the surveillance of Black neighborhoods and immigrant communities through anti-gang policing. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Grace

**From:** Megan Bailey <meganjoebailey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 1:08 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, my name is Joey. I have been a resident of Washington for 8 years now, living in Olympia and Seattle. I have spent much time in Tacoma. I am asking for you to please consider the following:

- 1) I am asking you to consider significantly defunding the police and sheriff---making budget cuts to their departments. I am asking for at least 20-30% budget cuts to show solidarity with what the community has been protesting and asking for. Please allocate this funding back into the community. Please stop over-policing Black, Brown, and poor communities. The members of your community need help and support, rather than incarceration, which leads to economic hardship, criminal record, single income households, etc. Divest that money into housing, mental health services, food banks, sexual violence resources, education, etc.
- 2) Remove cops from all schools.
- 3) Free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County for petty crimes, and those jailed or detained for protesting.

Your decisions TODAY will impact the FUTURE. Please make the best decision for your COMMUNITY and the people who live there. Divesting funds from police and investing them into your people is the logical thing to do and result in long term systemic change.

Thank you,  
**Joey Bailey**

**From:** Charles Smith <charles.stephen.smith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** :Defund Tacoma Police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council-

I'm writing to you with a passionate hope, and soulful petition, that you will actively participate in moving our city forward in an equitable and non-violent way, in which all residents, particularly black, indigenous and immigrant communities, have access to a felt sense of safety, and protection in the community.

Due to the oppressive history and actions of the Tacoma Police Department, and local detention centers, I'm writing in collaboration with my fellow Tacoma citizens, to petition that you expeditiously utilize your position of power and duty to implement the following demands for the wellness and safety of our city's people.

- Defund the police and sheriff and allocate the funding to community transformative justice collaboratives, sustainable housing, trauma sensitive mental health services, anti-oppressive education and equal access health care.
- Remove police presence from all schools.
- Co-collaborate within our city, and with other cities, to free all jailed and detained people in Pierce County.

Please act swiftly, and choose to craft your budget and policies to implement a violence prevention approach; so that together we can have the resources to nurture the safe and interconnected community we wish to grow.

Charles Smith