

**From:** Kayla Quinn <kaylala427@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 7:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment Ord 28756

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

Hello, I am writing to give public comment on ordinance 28756 which would ban unauthorized camping and storage of public property. The Council needs to see and understand that this makes homelessness illegal. I am absolutely against this ordinance and urge the Council to vote it down. You cannot make it illegal to be without shelter and then not provide adequate shelter and low income or no income housing for all of your residents. People are doing their best to survive in a very difficult society. Provide housing for ALL and do not pass this ordinance. It is wrong and evil to criminalize people that have no choice.

~Kayla Quinn (she/her)

**From:** Kathryn Dodge <kathrynododge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 8:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Ushka, Catherine; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina  
**Subject:** NO on Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council Members,

Please vote NO on Ordinance 28756 tomorrow, which legally bans “unauthorized camping and storage of personal property” within any public property.

We must support our unhoused neighbors, not create additional barriers for people trying to survive. You cannot support criminalizing homelessness and simultaneously propose an ordinance that penalizes unhoused people for existing in public space. This ordinance would also disproportionately impact people of color, and those living with chronic health conditions, and violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to not disperse encampments (unless safe and alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents — housing which we know does not exist).

I call on the leaders of this city to prioritize the protection of human existence in public space over the protection of public property.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Dodge

North Slope resident

**From:** Michael Sea <msea1997@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:02 PM  
**To:** City Manager; City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Thoms, Robert  
**Subject:** Concerns about Ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

My name is Michael Sea and I am from Northeast Tacoma. I am emailing you about my concerns of Ordinance 28756 and how it can criminalize the unhoused individuals of Tacoma or anyone affected by homelessness in the City. I believe there needs to be more equity and more housing for these individuals during this time. From my interpretation, the way this ordinance is written can do more harm than good. I am concerned that this ordinance will hurt more people than it intends to help. Please consider my concerns and find a more equitable solution to address homelessness in Tacoma.

Michael Sea

**From:** Bronwyn Clarke <bronwynclarke95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Strong opposition to ordinance 28756

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

Dear Mayor Woodward and Tacoma City Council Members:

I am writing in strong opposition to Ordinance 28756 which will effectively make it illegal to be homeless in Tacoma. This is not a just, equitable, or compassionate policy. It is cruel, and will likely further entrap our houseless neighbors into penalizing encounters with a police system that is not there to keep them safe.

In solidarity with the local community leaders and activists protesting this ordinance, I demand that you:

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice

To propose this in a pandemic that will likely lead to thousands more becoming homeless is simply unacceptable and unjust.

Sincerely,

Bronwyn Clarke

Tacoma, WA 98418

--

**Bronwyn Clarke**

Qualitative & UX Researcher

MPhil, Comparative Social Policy

Pronouns: *She / Her*

**From:** The Whitfeldts <whitfeldts@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:40 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** We do not approve of 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Manager, Mayor and Council,

**Please do not approve ordinance 28756! We stand with our houseless neighbors who have been struggling to survive during this pandemic. We cannot support the city and our police department to criminalize their survival. Where is the energy put towards supporting them? Where is sanitation support? Where is housing support? Where is the food support? Please do not give the police permission to cause more harm to this community. STAND WITH US!**

**We call for housing, justice, and humanization. We demand that the mayor and city council:**

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance**
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents**
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness**
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice**

**No Justice - No Peace.**

**Sincerely,  
Riki Whitfeldt and family**

**From:** Kacie Masten <kacie.masten@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina  
**Subject:** Do NOT Pass City Ordinance 28756

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

I am writing in STRONG opposition to city ordinance 28756 which would ban “public camping”. This ordinance is harmful at best and discriminatory at its worst. Many of those in public encampments are people of color who have been displaced by the gentrification occurring in the city. Those who are houseless are not getting support from the city or local officials. Instead city council is choosing to sweep away folks who are simply trying to survive.

If Mayor Woodards and the Tacoma City Council want to solve the houselessness crisis, city ordinance 28756 should not be passed. Instead, the city should listen to local organizations and community members who have been engaging in mutual aid with those in encampments. Let local community members who are actually trying to support folks in the city lead this conversation, instead of turning your backs.

This ordinance is telling the people of Tacoma that you are simply disgusted by the site of public camping, and not actually concerned about how to fix the systemic housing crisis. Do NOT pass this ordinance.

Thank you,

Kacie Masten  
425-445-0519

**From:** Marnie Ritchie <ritchiem@plu.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:02 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comments for City Council Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Marnie Ritchie. I am an Assistant Professor of Communication at Pacific Lutheran University and a resident of Tacoma, WA. **And I write today to strongly oppose Ordinance 28756** which would penalize unhoused people for existing in public space. Unhoused people in Tacoma are members of our city, and they should be welcomed here. They belong here. Criminalizing their existence will effectively set back the progress we make in this city to keep unhoused people *safe*.

Beyond that, this ordinance:

1. criminalizes homelessness
2. punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, and/or living with chronic health conditions, for surviving in the face of city-driven gentrification and displacement
3. emboldens and empowers policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for defunding and abolition of the white supremacist and violent institution of policing
4. violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to not disperse encampments (unless safe and alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents — housing which we know does not currently exist in this city) and
5. most of all, violates the ethical codes of morality which call on the preservation of dignity of human existence in public space over the “protection” of public property

I strongly urge that all members of the City Council reject this Ordinance, and that Mayor Victoria Woodards and Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker remove their support immediately. Thank you for your time.

--

Marnie Ritchie, Ph.D. (*she/her*)

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Department of Communication

Faculty Affiliate with Gender, Sexuality, and Race Studies



Pacific Lutheran University

[mmritchie.com](http://mmritchie.com)

[ritchiem@plu.edu](mailto:ritchiem@plu.edu)

**From:** Jaimie Schilt <jaimieliynn82@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:04 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** No on 28756!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Manager, Mayor and Council,

Please do not approve ordinance 28756! We stand with our houseless neighbors who have been struggling to survive during this pandemic. We cannot support the city and our police department to criminalize their survival. Where is the energy put towards supporting them? Where is sanitation support? Where is housing support? Where is the food support? Please do not give the police permission to cause more harm to this community. STAND WITH US!

We call for housing, justice, and humanization. We demand that the mayor and city council:

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice

No Justice - No Peace.

Sincerely,

Tacoma Resident of District 3

--- Jaimie Turner

**From:** Kevin Le <kevin.ct.le@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Opposition to City Ordinance 28756

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

I am a resident of Tacoma and I am writing in extremely STRONG opposition to City Ordinance 28756, which would ban "Public Camping." This proposed action is heartless at best and incredibly discriminatory at worst. The proposition is literally to push out houseless peoples so those with homes don't have to look at them and can feel better about themselves.

And this is just a bandaid on the great housing problem. If you push them out, they'll just return later, potentially with greater numbers as the city's property values and rents skyrocket. There needs to be real, long lasting solutions. If you wanna get people off the streets and parks, put them into homes they can stay in long term.

The City of Tacoma should divert resources from the Police Department and work with local community organizations to create real solutions for the city. These organizations have much more insight than city council will, while y'all have sat in your zoom calls debating whether people should be treated as humans, these local organizations have been providing food and support for those that need it. They're out here making a difference while you just want to erase any progress they've made.

This ordinance tells the people of Tacoma that City Council is not concerned about fixing the housing crisis, y'all just wanna push poor people out.

Do NOT pass this ordinance

Thank You,

Kevin Le

**From:** emily s. <emily.stinnett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Ordinance 28756

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

As a resident in the Oakland Madrona Neighborhood in Tacoma, I ask you to please consider all Tacoma neighbors including unhoused neighbors. This is a cruel ordinance and criminalizes homelessness. Please do not pass this ordinance, it is inhumane to not allow people to sit, stand or sleep outside. The people of Tacoma will not stand for this! Please consider all public comments!

Thank you! -Emily Stinnett

**From:** Nancy Lee Farrell <nfarrellwa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** I am stunned by the cruelty of ordinance 28756.

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

This is so unfair to our unsheltered folks. Most of them have serious mental health issues, which is brought on by any involvement with the police. We need more psychiatric workers. Surely hiring more psychiatric workers would cost the city less than the hiring of police.

Nancy Farrell

4005 N. 24th St.

Tacoma, WA 98406

**From:** Helen Edwards <helen.valmere.edwards1@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:05 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comment on Ordinance No. 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am writing today to express my concern at Ordinance No. 28756. The ordinance says that it won't discriminate against Tacoma's unhoused population, but clearly that is not true. I've watched police conduct sweeps against local encampments and they are cruel, without mercy or kindness, and force people who have nowhere else to go into even worse conditions.

You even acknowledge in the ordinance that our unhoused population is growing and yet, instead of doing anything to combat the actual problem (lack of affordable housing, access to mental health care, etc.), you're criminalizing people who are already suffering. Where is the compassion in that? After all, how long did it take the council to open up warming shelters for people living on the streets this winter, despite the fact that multiple people died of exposure.

Why not focus instead on ways to create access for people living on the streets to sanitation facilities, or housing services? There are not enough beds in Tacoma shelters.

I beg the Mayor and city council members to reconsider this ordinance and find a more compassionate way to help those who are forced to live on the streets.

Sincerely,

Helen Edwards

**From:** Marian Berejikian <fopc@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:37 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Decarbonization Resolution #40776

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello:

In order to fulfill the promises made in the 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution and reduce our green house gas emissions we need to decarbonize our buildings and our transportation.

Electrification is an important and necessary step in making this happen. Please pass Resolution 40776 as a first step in this effort.

Thank you for bringing this forward and for your consideration.

Marian Berejikian

Executive Director

[FOPC@Comcast.Net](mailto:FOPC@Comcast.Net)

(253) 851-9524

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



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**From:** Shelby Isham <scisham4@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:57 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a 10-year resident of Tacoma writing to provide my comment on the presentation of Ordinance 28756, which would ban public camping. Here it is:

SHAME. This is a disgusting idea and the language provided within the ordinance shows that the Council knows exactly what it is doing. To paraphrase, the writers of the document felt the need to explicitly state that the ordinance is “not intended” to discriminate against any particular group of people. They then go on to outline the expanding population of unhoused Tacomans and their presence on public property, and how the effects of this ordinance would almost exclusively impact that specific population.

The ordinance claims to be in place to promote health and wellness of “the general public” and yet there are no clear steps outlined to provide services which would promote the health and wellness of the the folks whose mere existence and attempts to survive are being criminalized. Are these folks not a part of the general public?

Why are city resources going to police power and sweeps to keep these people out of the public eye instead of going to the creation of public housing options and other supports for them?

The language of the ordinance is disingenuous and belies a contempt for our homeless and poverty-stricken citizens that is simply vile. Your “intent” means nothing when the *impact* is to further criminalize and decrease the quality of life for our most vulnerable neighbors. City Council would do well to retract this ordinance and work on something that will *actually* serve our community.

Sincerely,

Shelby Isham | she/her  
[scisham4@gmail.com](mailto:scisham4@gmail.com) | (808) 271-6077

**From:** Jennifer Henderson <jennannhenderson@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:17 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Tacoma City Council,

I would like to make a comment on the proposed ordinance 28756. I am a resident of Tacoma. I live at 7615 S Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98408. **I BELIEVE THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE SHOULD BE DENIED.** First, I live in Tacoma and I have no problem with the people who "camp" in public places around me. I live near areas where people are living and "camping" in public places. I am not bothered by these people. I often see these people wearing masks and social distancing as much as possible. When I see people camping in my neighborhood, I am not angry at them--I am angry at the government of the City of Tacoma for allowing these people to continue to suffer outside. In times of hardship, we should be *empathizing* rather than criminalizing. Second, this ordinance is inhumane. This ordinance will criminalize living outside at a time when people *do not have a choice* of whether or not they live outside. This ordinance will only harm people and children who have been forced to live outside due to economic hardships. It is unethical to charge fines for "camping" in public places in the middle of a global pandemic where most regular people are suffering economically. These fines will put low-income people into a deeper hole of debt that they will never escape. This proposal is wrong, it hurts my stomach, and I am disgusted that my government is even considering this bill.

Rather than investing in criminalization and law enforcement, we should (1) invest in safe shelters for those experiencing homelessness; and/or (2) add bathrooms and other sanitary resources to public places for these people to use; and/or (3) invest in low-income housing in general.

I would like this message to be read at the City Council meeting, if possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Henderson

--

JENNIFER A. HENDERSON

she/her/hers

2022 J.D. Candidate

University of Washington School of Law

[Jenn122@uw.edu](mailto:Jenn122@uw.edu) | 360.620.3271

**From:** Luciano Garofalo <lu.garofalo@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

I wish to voice my opposition to ordinance 28756 that will be proposed this evening at council meeting. It is cruel and discriminatory towards people experiencing homelessness. They need our public spaces now more than any of us, especially those of us who own homes. The owning public has voted in favor of our property taxes being used to **support** people experiencing homelessness, not to push them around.

Sincerely,

**Luciano Garofalo, ND, MS**

*Pronouns: he/him*

Postdoctoral research fellow

BRIDG T90 Program - [nunm.edu/research/bridg](https://nunm.edu/research/bridg)

University of Washington

[garofalo@uw.edu](mailto:garofalo@uw.edu)

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**From:** Jennifer Ladzinski <jennladzin@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:56 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office; Ushka, Catherine

**Subject:** Public Comment on Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council Members & Mayor Victoria Woodards,

I am writing to share my comment on Ordinance 28756, as I will not be able to attend the City Council Meeting this evening. As a concerned community member and resident of Tacoma in the Lincoln District, I strongly object to Ordinance 28756, which effectively criminalizes houselessness. This ordinance would penalize and displace unhoused people in our community, who are disproportionately BIPOC and often struggling with chronic illnesses or mental health conditions. If these people are banned from camping in public spaces, where are they expected to go? We know there is not sufficient safe housing in Tacoma for those currently living on the streets, so unhoused residents will likely just relocate to another area. This ordinance does nothing to address the factors that contribute to houselessness, and instead will only increase policing of our houseless neighbors and add to the systemic barriers they already face!

I care about our community and I care about our houseless neighbors! Please do the same by dropping Ordinance 28756 and investing in long-term solutions for equitable housing in our city.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ladzinski, LICSW, CYT

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

(206) 267-8701

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

**From:** Amy QV <amyvan08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** No on Ordinance # 28756

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

Dear Mayor Woodard & City Council Members,

As a resident of Tacoma I urge you to not pass Ordinance no. 28756 which criminalizes homelessness and negatively affects our most vulnerable and marginalized community members.

Tacoma has an affordable housing crisis that has been further crippled by unemployment, police violence, and general lack of resources to fully meet the needs of our neighbors. Until Tacoma can effectively address equitable and affordable housing, as well as equitable and adequate social services and resources, it is purely inhumane to force unhoused people from seeking shelter wherever possible.

Thank you,

Amy

**From:** Eli Gandour-Rood <elirood@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:27 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment for 4/20/21 City Council Meeting, on proposed ordinance 28756, camping on public property

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

Hello,

I am not able to attend the city council meeting tonight but I would like to offer the below remarks for public comment.

I live in Tacoma, and I am asking the Council not to pass this ordinance. This ordinance claims to be about public safety, but it seems to me that it will make less safe our unhoused neighbors, who are already most vulnerable. How can you look at our unhoused community and think that the solution is to try to criminalize their existence? If you prohibit their living space...where are they going to go? The action memorandum describing this ordinance mentions support for the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness and its goal of providing a safe space to sleep by November 2021. That's noble, but where are our unhoused neighbors supposed to go in the meantime? How could you possibly think that the answer to the very real public health crisis is....subjecting our unhoused neighbors to brutal 'sweeps' by the police in which their possessions are destroyed, their safety is threatened, and their personal dignity is violated? I urge the Council to listen to the voices of the people who would be harmed by this ordinance and take the following actions:

- 1) Do not pass this ordinance
- 2) Cease the practice of 'sweeping' the living spaces of our unhoused neighbors
- 3) Stop attempting to criminalize homelessness and instead listen to community organizations such as The People's Assembly to figure out a truly just and equitable approach to this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Eli Gandour-Rood



**From:** Tori Brewster <torian.k.brewster@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:32 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comment on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am against this ordinance.

This is cruel. Please end the criminalization of homelessness, and invest instead in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Please cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents. I can't believe we are even considering this during a pandemic.

Thanks,

Tori

**From:** Leah Falk <leahfalk2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

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

Hello there,

My name is Leah Falk, and I am concerned for the ordinance 28756 and its effect on my unhoused neighbors. Please, I urge you to drop this ordinance, cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused Pierce county residents, make efforts to end the criminalization of homelessness, and invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or effected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Thank you,  
Leah

**From:** Jeanne Stevens <stevens.jeanne.m@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:51 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756 sucks

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma and City Council Members ,

Its a well known fact that Tacoma does not provide reasonable and adequate housing to struggling persons within it's city limits. Therefore this ordinance is in direct defiance of CDC and Pierce County Health Department orders that encampments not be dispersed.

Even if that wasn't the case, this criminalization of hiuselessness is inhumane and undignified. Our house less neighbors are our neighbors and deserve our help and support, not further dehumanization and threat of police violence and property loss.

Presumably, the people on this council are there because they care about the well-being of Tacoma's people. Any City Council member who supports this ordinance should be ashamed.

Warmly,

J. Stevens

**From:** Nakanee Monique <nakaneemonique@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:53 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756 & Fossil Fuel Exclusion

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern on the Tacoma City Council,

I'm Nakanee McCord, a homeowner and community member from south end Tacoma. I email you today to express my thoughts on both Ordinance 28756 and to encourage the council to pass a resolution dedicated to the exclusion of fossil fuels in the City of Tacoma.

First, as it pertains to Ordinance 28756, it is a little disgusting that this is even being considered. It also doesn't make any sense: "WHEREAS it is the intent of this ordinance to provide for and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and not to create, either expressly or implicitly, or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons or individuals who will or should be especially protected or benefited or discriminated against by the terms of this chapter..."

While our houseless neighbours do not fall under a protected class of citizen, this ordinance inherently promotes discrimination against those who are houseless. To pretend otherwise is nonsense. We need to decriminalize homelessness to solve this issue because this ordinance will likely just make things worse for our houseless neighbours. Especially when in theory, failure to comply to this ordinance can result in fines that we all know can't be paid by the folks most affected by this issue:

"8.19.050 Penalty For Violations. 20 Violation of Section 8.19.030 or Section 8.19.040 of this Chapter is a misdemeanor offense and shall be punished upon conviction of such violation by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

How is that fair and just in the middle of a crisis? Is COVID-19 no longer an issue within our jails? Is that fine going to help solve homelessness? We should all be helping one another; not actively seeking to penalize those of us most in need. I realize this ordinance also references that it is unconstitutional to impose "penalties for sitting, sleeping, or lying outside on public property, on homeless individuals who could not obtain shelter..." My question then is what is the purpose of this ordinance if not to target those homeless individuals? For all the talk from the city council on "people over property", this ordinance reads nothing of the sort...

Instead of ordinances against persons, how about we attack the roots of this issue? This is just a band aid that helps upper class citizens feel more secure because they don't want to "see" the camps this pandemic and this awful system has created; this in no way helps public safety, it merely sweeps it away elsewhere. I have been on Tacoma's Reddit posts and seen the awful comments from upper class folks IN THIS CITY which all but say "so long as it's not in my backyard". We, as a city, shouldn't want to "sweep" this under the rug. No more planned sweeping of unhoused residents! We need to be investing in efforts led by community members who actually care (not just those who don't want to see it) so as to develop equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Secondly, [Resolution 40622](#) may not be about climate justice specifically, but in its contents, it makes it clear that equity is important to the City of Tacoma. Climate justice is racial justice because, just as you have acknowledged in 40622, black and indigenous folks are most at risk as crises unfold. The climate crisis is another crisis, just like COVID-19, that "shine[s] a light on the deep need for more equitable systems" and should be treated as such. Please consider the resolution that will help the City of Tacoma move forward into the future by excluding fossil fuel sources and committing to low-emission sources for existing structures.

Supporting building electrification in order to move us toward climate justice will not only aid in our efforts of overall equity, but also encourage surrounding areas to do similarly. I urge the council to take bold action to support a resolution in which we start building for our futures with technologies of the future, rather than continue to rely on harmful systems and structures from the past.

Sincerely,

--

~/~ Nakanee McCord ~/~

**From:** Gwynne Brown <akgwynne@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** oppose Ordinance 28756

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

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am a 13-year resident of Tacoma. I strongly oppose Ordinance 28756, which I believe would persecute unsheltered Tacoma residents, put their health and safety at risk, further stigmatize this population, and do nothing to improve anybody's safety.

There are many things that could be done to improve the lives of Tacoma's unsheltered residents, and to promote the safety, health, and standard of living for all Tacoma residents. These things have been proposed by unsheltered people and their advocates and others with expertise. Policing, fines, and the dispersal of encampments are not the humane or effective way forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gwynne Brown

**From:** Mo Lewis <rocketmo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:19 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** do not further criminalize homelessness

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please do not pass any kind of ordinance that further criminalizes homelessness. It is still a pandemic! CDC guidelines state that people staying in tents outside should be left alone and not pushed out, because.... that's right... we are still in a pandemic. You have an opportunity to not make things worse for people who are already experiencing a lack of a safe place to live during a global pandemic. There are not enough services to accommodate everyone safely.

If you want to make things better and not worse, open up one of the hotels that are sitting empty right now and give people safe, secure, private places to stay for the duration of this pandemic.

Mo Lewis

**From:** Molly Golanka <molly.golanka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments for 5 pm Meeting re: OPPOSITION to Ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

Below are my comments for the 5 pm city council meeting today, which will discuss Ordinance 28756.

As a resident of Stadium District, and graduate of the University of Puget Sound, I want to emphasize that this ordinance has a number of problems and does not reflect the wants and needs of myself nor the communities I am a part of.

This ordinance punishes unhoused people (a majority of whom are BIPOC and/or living with chronic health conditions) for surviving in the face of city-driven gentrification and displacement.

This ordinance also emboldens & empowers policing in the face of a growing movement of people calling the institution of policing itself into question, demanding accountability and defunding as a priority, rather than expansion.

Finally, this ordinance violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept. to not disperse encampments (unless safe & alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents-- which we know does not currently exist in this city), as well as the ethical codes of morality which call on the protection of human existence in public space over the "protection" of public property.

For these reasons, I am voicing my opposition to this ordinance and encourage my fellow neighbors and other Pierce County residents to speak up.

Thank you.



Molly Golanka

**From:** thy nguyễn <thynguyenjd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** 4/20 Public Comment on Ordinance 28756

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

My name is thy nguyen. I'm commenting on Ordinance 28756.  
This ordinance is cruel and unethical, especially in the midst of a global pandemic.

I demand that Mayor Woodards and city council:

- Drop this cruel ordinance
- Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- End the criminalization of homelessness
- Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice

Tacoma City Council states that its intent is “not to create or otherwise establish any particular class or group of individuals who will be discriminated against by the terms of the ordinance”, but Ordinance 28756 does exactly that. This ordinance punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, disabled, and/or living with chronic health conditions. This ordinance bolsters policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for the abolition of police. This ordinance is a direct violation of the people’s unalienable right to exist and survive in public space, especially when city-driven development and gentrification have created the very conditions that the city now seeks to outlaw.

Ordinance 28756 effectively:

- 1) criminalizes homelessness
- 2) punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, and/or living with chronic health conditions, for surviving in the face of city-driven gentrification and displacement
- 3) emboldens and empowers policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for defunding and abolition of the white supremacist and violent institution of policing
- 4) violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to not disperse encampments (unless safe and alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents — housing which we know does not currently exist in this city) and
- 5) most of all, violates the ethical codes of morality which call on the preservation of dignity of human existence in public space over the “protection” of public property.

Ordinance 28756 should have never been introduced at all and should be dropped now. Instead, city council should invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Sincerely,

--



**From:** Ingrid Archibald <ingrid@stand.earth>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Resolution No. 40776

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Tacoma City Council and Mayor Woodards:

On behalf of the SAFE Cities campaign and Stand.earth, I would like to submit a comment in support of Resolution No. 40776 which will be considered (as agenda item #17) at the City Council meeting on April 20, 2021.

Stand.earth is an advocacy organization which builds people power to demand that corporations and governments put people and the environment first. SAFE Cities is the movement of communities and local governments ending fossil fuel expansion and building climate justice.

We are thrilled that the City of Tacoma is considering making commitments to move beyond fossil-fueled buildings. We must transition off carbon-intensive fuels as quickly as we can in order to protect our communities' health today and to build our long-term resilience.

Building all-electric is a critical step toward safeguarding our climate, protecting indoor and outdoor air quality, and keeping our communities safe from dangerous fuels like methane gas. Luckily, we have efficient, cost-effective technology and a skilled workforce ready to build all-electric new buildings in Tacoma and across Washington.

While this resolution is an encouraging start, we also want to offer strong support to Council passing more policies with binding measures for all new buildings to be all-electric and with plans for retrofitting existing buildings to get them off gas.

Thank you for your leadership and for calling on other jurisdictions to follow Tacoma by passing building electrification policies. We look forward to uplifting this example and continuing to advocate for other cities to make similar commitments. We know that widespread, systemic change is necessary in tackling these issues – and it all starts with local leadership.

With gratitude,

[Ingrid Archibald](#)

SAFE Cities Field Organizer  
Stand.earth

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**Ingrid Archibald | she/they**

**SAFE Cities Field Organizer**

O: 415.863.4563, ext 415

I live and work on unceded ancestral lands of the Duwamish and Coast Salish people – the first people of Seattle, WA. If you also occupy Duwamish land, I encourage you to consider paying [Real Rent](#).

Stand is an advocacy organization that brings people together to demand that corporations and governments put people and the environment first.



**From:** Shae Dolan <shaedolan3@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:08 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ordinance 28756 is truly disgusting. Tacoma is a city hijacked by gentrification, and the City Council cannot morally criminalize our displaced neighbors. Increased policing is not the answer to homelessness, especially when the Tacoma Police Department disproportionately targets Black and disabled communities in our city.

Beyond its life-destroying implications, this ordinance directly contradicts instructions from the Pierce County Health Department.

Houseless people deserve our respect and support. Not criminalization. It is disappointing that the Mayor and some City Council members prioritize property over human beings.

**From:** Ash Oman <ash.o@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:11 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

I request this ordinance (28756) be dropped. We value human lives over property. Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents. End the criminalization of homelessness.

Thank you.

Ash Oman

**From:** Simome Reed <simonereed3001@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:33 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comments on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerks,

Hello. As a young adult living in Tacoma, I want to express my opposition to Ordinance 28756, which would ban the houseless from "camping" on city property. It is extremely concerning to me that Tacoma would take such a drastic measure to criminalize homelessness. As someone who doesn't own a car, I can assure you that my ability to use public spaces is not hindered by the existence of houseless people and their shelters. It breaks my heart that Tacoma would choose to further push these marginalized people out of the public eye instead of supporting them.

Thank you for your time. There is no need to respond.



**From:** oakschiller2 <oakschiller2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Ckincil Comment (camping ordinance)

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

I heard that the council is considering an ordinance to criminalize camping on public property. I think this is a terrible idea. There are not enough shelters available for houseless people to go to, so this would essentially criminalize being housless. If we want to not have people camping on public property then we need to get them housing. We could put them in hotels, or create a community land trust with empty houses and buildings that the city owns.

Jay Oak-Schiller, the South End

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** Jesse Inman <inman.jesse@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:48 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Oppose Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am a registered voter in Tacoma writing to oppose Ordinance 28756. During a pandemic our houseless neighbors should not be forced out of their encampments. I have worked in homeless outreach services in Seattle and I know that encampment removal does not work. It only makes it harder to outreach people and cause trauma. Sweeps are inhumane and need to stop.

Jesse Inman

2310 S 16th St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

**From:** pweymiller <pweymiller@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:55 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Resolution 40776 Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Council,

Thank you for your commitment to reduce gases in our county that poison the air and warm the planet by passing the Sustainability 2030 plan.

And thank you for accepting the inevitable future of clean energy.

And thank those of you who recognize the defining moment we are in where your leadership and decisions will help save our natural resources, billions in climate-mitigation and ultimately our planet. And you recognize that our county will play expensive “catch-up” if we wait.

You must see that the momentum is very strong right now for the transition to electrical energy. Major automakers are already transitioning to manufacturing 100% electric cars and, with the Clean Cars 2030 amendment on Inslee’s desk, our state may be the 1st to require that only cars powered by renewable renewable energy will be sold. We will need to start building infrastructure for that now.

Please heed the overwhelming consensus of authorized climate experts to begin significantly reducing our carbon emissions by passing resolution 40776.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to prevent catastrophic and possible irreversible damage to our planet. And right now it seems that there will be a lot of federal support coming.

Sincerely,

Pete Weymiller

Tacoma CCL, Friends of Pierce County

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** Jordan Rodgers <jordanerodgers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Ordinance 28756

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

City Council Members -

I am a resident of District 3. I am troubled by Ordinance 28756, which criminalizes homeless people, thereby criminalizing people who are members of marginalized groups that have been disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity and discrimination. District 3 still lives with the impacts of a history of redlining, and we cannot continue this history by forcing-out a disproportionately Black and Indigenous group of people. Criminalizing a disproportionately Black and Indigenous group of our neighbors also puts these neighbors at increased risk of facing brutality by Tacoma PD. All of our neighbors, housed and unhoused, are inherently deserving of protection from harm. This ordinance perpetrates harm.

Furthermore, forcing our unhoused neighbors to disperse, without a plan for their shelter, is inhumane, ineffective, and violates the guidance of the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The co-sponsors of this ordinance simply do not know better than public health experts.

I hope members of the council have the integrity to consider the harm this ordinance perpetrates and perpetuates.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Rodgers  
District 3

**From:** Ana Campos <anac.mpos99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** NO to Ordinance 28756

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

I am writing to urge Tacoma city council to drop ordinance 28756. In the wake of a global pandemic and a time of great economic hardship for people around the world, it is inconceivably cruel and unjust that the city of Tacoma is considering banning human beings from taking shelter on city streets. If people are banned from “camping” on city property, where are these people supposed to go? This ordinance is another measure by the city of Tacoma to criminalize homelessness and put houseless people in prisons and jails rather than working to address the true roots of housing instability and poverty. As a voter I demand that the city council drop this cruel ordinance, cease any and all sweeps or evictions of unhoused people so that they don’t have to suffer any more harm, end the criminalization of homelessness in Tacoma, and invest in efforts led by community members who are experiencing or directly affected by homelessness, so that they can work to develop true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice in this city. This is the only way that we can address housing injustice in a real and meaningful way. This is the only way we can do more than just throwing people in jail and continuing to let suffering and injustice thrive in our community. NO to ordinance 28756.

**From:** Margaret S <mmshrum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Stop ordinance number 28756

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

It's absolutely cruel to arrest and charge homeless/ houseless people- they need support, rehabilitation and mental healthcare as well as being treated with respect, kindness and dignity. Stop ordinance 28756.

Margaret Shrum  
A Concerned Tacoma Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Luna Malia <lunamalia97@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Stop ordinance 28756

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

This is a shameful way to address houselessness in Tacoma. It is not supportive at all. I do not support this, and am upset that this is even proposed as an option.

Luna Malia



**From:** Madison Ramey <ramey.madison.p@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:25 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Against Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

City Council and Mayor,

Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by houselessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice!

This ordinance only increases policing and criminalizes houselessness. Drop the ordinance!

Sincerely,

Madison

**From:** Megan Rupert <meganlrupert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** OPPOSE ordinance 28756

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

I am a Tacoma (Lincoln district) resident, voter, and public school teacher writing to strongly OPPOSE ordinance 28756. Criminalizing homelessness will not solve any of the problems our city faces. Homeless communities have already been criminalized enough, and the problems our community face have only gotten WORSE. We need accessible, no-barrier housing for all. We need safe consumption sites. We need harm reduction. These are evidence and research based solutions that have been proven to WORK, unlike criminalizing homelessness which clearly DOES NOT WORK and actually makes things worse. I demand:

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

People who are living outside are our neighbors and our community. We must do better!

Megan Rupert  
98418

**From:** Darryl Cheng <darrylcwcheng@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:39 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Drop Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I, Darryl Cheng, would like Tacoma's City Council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's City Council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

**From:** Alyce Davie <alycedavie@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:42 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I would like Tacoma's City Council to drop ordinance 28576. I am a concerned citizen of WA who is NOT in support of this ordinance. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime.

Alyce Davie

**From:** Lori Isbell <lIsbell@burkhartdental.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting | Feedback in Support of New Ordinance Banning Homeless Encampments on Public Property  
**Attachments:** City of Tacoma\_78th St\_4.20.21.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback for tonight's meeting. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Lori

**Lori Isbell**

President



P 253.474.7761

EMAIL [ktowell@burkhartdental.com](mailto:ktowell@burkhartdental.com)

WEBSITE [BurkhartDental.com](http://BurkhartDental.com)

*Integrity Knowledge Client Success*



April 20, 2021

Dear Council Members,

Burkhart Dental Supply, a family owned business since 1888, is the 4th largest dental supply and equipment distributor in the nation. Our corporate offices have been in Tacoma for the last 130 years. We consider ourselves good corporate citizens and an economic asset to Tacoma.

As the family's 5th generation president, I am deeply concerned about the escalating problems we're experiencing on 78th Street from individuals congregating or living in vehicles on our street. Here's some of what we've experienced over the past several years:

- Harassment of our employees by transient individuals selling drugs, consuming drugs, nudity, urinating, and having visible sex in/near their vehicles.
- Our property fences cut and pried open to use our outside power and water sources, steal our vehicle batteries or use our property as a pass-through to other locations.
- Significant and regular dumping of unwanted items (bikes, lawnmowers, tires, shopping carts, garbage, construction debris, appliances, etc).

While I have compassion for our city's homeless population, I am deeply concerned that the unsavory environment they create may pose a risk to our employee's safety. I am upset by the surroundings that my current and potential employees have to experience to get to/from our place of business. In fact, I believe that it may be a factor in current employee retention and in potential employee recruitment. I am troubled that our professional reputation may be negatively impacted and our ability to do business jeopardized.

Over the years we have done several things in response:

- Used 311 to report vehicles and garbage dumps with a city response slower than reasonable.
- Engaged with the Safe Streets program, with limited success.
- Invested in a parking lot security system to deter criminal activity on our premises.
- Our Associates and Leaders have cleaned up garbage on numerous occasions.

I wholeheartedly support the ordinance discussed today and am hopeful that it will help protect my business and employees.

Burkhart Dental Supply and our employees appreciate your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lori'.

Lori Burkhardt Isbell  
President

**From:** Ashley Villafranca-Sedino <ashcangarbagecan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:43 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** In Regards to Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I am writing today in opposition of the city Ordinance 28756 banning "camping" on public property. This is clearly an attempt to criminalize the houseless when we should instead be focusing on housing the houseless population. There is no need to imprison and criminalize those who seek shelter. When you are outside, there is no space for you when the public keeps kicking you out further and further.

When I aged out of foster care at age 17, I had absolutely nothing lined up for me. I worked hard to get the credits I needed to leave my abusive foster family and ended immediately onto the streets, sleeping at a cemetery because it was the only place no one complained about me. When we don't have housing, it's almost like the community around us just expects us to be dead. What kind of a society does that? Seriously, why are we not stopping this NOW. You have the power, ability and the chance to make a difference. People from all over the United States will adapt and learn from OUR START if we make ordinances that HOUSE the HOUSELESS instead of CRIMINALIZE them.

What if you lost all of your family, all your cars, your job, were PHYSICALLY disabled. Put yourself into a less privileged person, for once feel empathetic toward other human beings experiencing an existence unlike anything you are experiencing in yours. Imagine a better way we can solve this problem and DO IT.

Do NOT pass this obscene ordinance. This is not the way we should be solving the homelessness crisis. Start by SAVING lives and HOUSING them instead. Work on that, and we can move forward, not backwards.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Villafranca

206.637.6728

I OPPOSE ORDINANCE 28756

**From:** Maggi McConnell <maggi.m@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:43 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public comment on Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a Pacific Lutheran University graduate student and request that the Tacoma City Council drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and effectively criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness is not and SHOULD NOT be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Regards,

Maggi McConnell

PLU MA 2022



**From:** Maloy Moore <maloymmoore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please Stop Ordinance 28756

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

I, a concerned citizen of Tacoma, would like Tacoma's city council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's city council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** Leana West <leanarenae@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** For your consideration

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

I Leana West would like Tacoma's City Council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's City Council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Respectfully,

Leana West

**From:** Luisa Gallardo <gallarlm@plu.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:45 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Drop Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I would like Tacoma's City Council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness!! I am a current resident of Tacoma Washington.

Thank you,

Luisa Gallardo

**From:** Ivory Turner <turnerim@plu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

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

I, a concerned citizen of Tacoma, would like Tacoma's city council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's city council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Sincerely,

Ivory T.

--

***Ivory Turner***

Graduate Assistant - Lower Campus Residential Halls & Harstad  
Pacific Lutheran University

She/Her/They/Them

**From:** Jarred Katz <katzj3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Oppose ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

I am a Tacoma (Lincoln district) resident and voter writing to strongly OPPOSE ordinance 28756. Criminalizing homelessness will not solve any of the problems our city faces and actually makes things WORSE. Why can't we use our community resources and recognize the evidence from proven research on how we can make a meaningful change. Homeless communities have already been criminalized enough.

Demands:

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

People who are living outside are our neighbors and our community. We have no idea what awful things they have had to endured during covid. They deserve a better plan. We must do better!

Jarred  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Tolu Taiwo <tegg206@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:49 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Against Ord. 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I would like it to go on the record that I, a Tacoma resident, is **STRONGLY** opposed to (the very cruel) Ordinance 28756. We must stop the criminalization of unhoused folks, **ESPECIALLY** as we are **STILL** in a pandemic.

Thank you

Tolu Taiwo

**From:** Alex Rose Studios <alexchevrier43@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:49 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756 - City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I would like Tacoma's city council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance criminalizes homelessness, when there could be attention given to a more productive solution. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's city council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Thank you

**From:** Amy Ledyard <amy.ledyard@plu.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:54 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I, a concerned citizen of Tacoma, would like Tacoma's city council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's city council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Sincerely,

Amy Ledyard



**From:** Bryan Wisely <bwisely@burkhartdental.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Homeless Ordinance 28756 Letter 4.20.21  
**Attachments:** City Council April 20th.docx

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

Dear Council Members,

Please see the letter attached from the employees of Burkhart Dental Supply. Images of our street as of this morning can be found below.

Thank you,  
Bryan

**Bryan Wisely**  
Customer Service Manager



P 253.212.4864  
F 866.850.5249  
EMAIL [bwisely@burkhartdental.com](mailto:bwisely@burkhartdental.com)  
WEBSITE [BurkhartDental.com](http://BurkhartDental.com)

*Integrity Knowledge Client Success*































Sent from my iPhone



April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the associates of Burkhart Dental Supply, I am writing you today to show our support for the passing of city ordinance 28756.

Over the past few years, the homeless camps have increased in size, and frequency on 78<sup>th</sup> street. Associates at Burkhart could frequently be seen taking walks during our breaks, as part of our commitment to wellness here at Burkhart. Our tiny community has never been picture perfect, but most people felt it was safe to take a walk around the area. After speaking with many of the associates currently in the building, many expressed concern with the issues currently affecting 78<sup>th</sup> street.

Nearly everyone I spoke to told me they no longer feel safe walking to their cars, much less walking around the neighborhood. Some of the stories I have heard from fellow associates have included sightings of drug use, nudity, prostitution, vandalism, and illegal burning. I have witnessed several of these acts myself. Because of the increase in activity, Burkhart associates began reporting to 311, became active with Safe Streets, and held meetings with our Community Liaison Officers at the Tacoma Police Department.

During the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, I was hiring for three positions in my department during a time when many people were sent home without work. Each time I met with a prospective employee, I had to apologize for the piles of garbage, and chaos just outside of our building. During that time, I had several appointments that did not show for their meetings, and I am certain that some of them were due to the state of our street. With the passing of this ordinance, we feel that it will be a major step in cleaning up our neighborhood.

I have included several images taken just this morning of the issues we are facing. These images portray the exact conditions we see nearly every day when we come to work.

While I know our President, Lori Burkhart Isbell is also sending a letter encouraging the passing of Ordinance 28756, I also felt it was important for you to hear from the employees as well. Thank you for your time, and attention.

Sincerely,

Bryan Wisely

Customer Service Manager at Burkhart Dental Supply

**From:** Katherine Lebo <katherinelebo@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 3:58 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Against Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am a concerned citizen of Tacoma and would like Tacoma's city council to drop Ordinance 28756. This ordinance is particularly cruel and criminalizes homelessness. Experiencing homelessness should not be a crime. Instead, I would like to see Tacoma's city council invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true solutions for housing justice.

Katherine Lebo

**From:** Lauren D. <lauren.dunnington@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:01 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Opposition to Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk:

I am a homeowner in North Tacoma. I am writing to voice my opposition to Ordinance 28756. I recommend that the city council drop this ordinance, cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents, end the criminalization of homelessness, and invest in efforts led by community members who are themselves experiencing or affected by homelessness. We need to develop equitable solutions for housing and economic justice. Banning unhoused people from camping in city parks or other public property will not achieve this goal and will do nothing to develop supportive and sustainable housing solutions.

THank you,

Lauren Dunnington

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