

SEPT. 13, 2022

TO: CITY OF TALOMA LEADERS -  
 (MAYOR, CITY MANAGER & ATTORNEY AND  
ALL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS)

REA: PROPOSED ILLEGAL CAMPING ORDINANCE

While the proposed ordinance addresses illegal camping on "CITY PROPERTY" - the greater problem is situated on "PRIVATE PROPERTY". It would be more effective if it was "CITY WIDE" to include all properties!!

My "open letter" of APRIL 11 addresses an already "EXISTING" mechanism for precluding "ILLEGAL CAMPING". As a update to that letter; 1. CODE ENFORCEMENT would identify property owners that allow illegal camping in code violations (take pictures) and notify said property owners that they have so many days to correct the violation or entail fines and penalties already prescribed. If not corrected in allotted time the CITY would immediately enforce the clean up and send them a "BILL" along with penalties!

The above is for private properties and "right-of-way" which is a property owner responsibility to maintain.

"STREET CAMPING" would be enforced by "PARKING ENFORCEMENT" DEPT. by "enforcing" the "5 day parking" ordinance.

If necessary, "OVERTIME ALLOWANCES" would be granted to the above two CITY Departments. Tacoma Police Dept would come in as a last resort.

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SEPT 13, 2022

Homelessness is a GLOBAL, NATIONAL, STATE, AND 'CITY OF TACOMA' problem that is only get worse due to many factors. Not addressing it will lead to a lower quality of life for all citizens and increase CITY expenditures (CRIME (T.P.D.) calls and EMS services, etc.

As a former City of Tacoma Human Rights Commissioner allowing illegal encampments indirectly, is a violation of human rights by allowing people to live in unhealthy and crime prone situations!

Michele Reich

MICHELE REICH

P.O. BOX 110433

TACOMA, WA. 98411

(253) 272-0309

P.S. - Being PRO-ACTIVE in regard to the homelessness and illegal camping problems in the city I have a further suggestion. In talking with "Obdientia Counselor" recently she told me that only "23%" of homeless individuals prefer to get off the street. It would be helpful if the CITY OF TACOMA funded a "MOBILE COUNSELING VAN" like the BOOKMOBILE OR BLOOD BANK VAN to come directly to the "STREET PEOPLE" and offer them "PROFESSIONAL" help as most don't have insurance. These would be Clinical Social Workers or Psychologists or Psychiatrists on contract?

APRIL 11, 2022

OPEN LETTER TO: TACOMA CITY LEADERS  
(MAYOR, CITY MANAGER & ATTORNEY AND CITY  
COUNCIL MEMBERS)

The quality of life and public safety in particular has suffered in the past several years. While all the problems can't be solved in a day - I have a suggestion with solution for the "RIGHT-OF-WAY" street camping (parking) that is the source of many misdeeds and sometimes felony crimes.

The Right-of-Way is the responsibility of a specific property owner and is to only be used for parking purposes. If tents are erected - I believe the "STREET OCCUPATION PERMIT" - with its fees & restrictions comes into play. Have parking enforcement identify the property owner that they are in violation and give them 10 many days to come into reg. Additionally, they (property owners) would be responsible for trash clean-up and any injuries to the public (liability) - it will be cleaned up fast!

Signed; Michele Treich  
Former Tacoma Human Rights Commissioner  
POB. 110433, TACOMA, WA. 98411

**From:** Bruce Kendall <Bruce@edbtacomapierce.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:22 PM  
**To:** Atkinson, Stephen; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Maddie Merton  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment - Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives - September 13, 2022  
**Attachments:** MM Comments for EIS Tideflats 9 13 2022 2.0 UPDATED FINAL.docx

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

Steve, et al –

This letter replaces the one Maddie Merton sent earlier today. We have made a couple corrections and would like this letter to be entered in the record.

Thanks.

Bruce

**BRUCE KENDALL**  
President & CEO



w: +1 253.383.4726 d: +1 253.284.5890  
PO Box 1555, Tacoma, WA 98401-1555  
[choosetacomapierce.org](http://choosetacomapierce.org) | [bruce@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:bruce@edbtacomapierce.org)



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**From:** Maddie Merton <[maddie@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:maddie@edbtacomapierce.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Atkinson, Stephen <[satkinson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:satkinson@cityoftacoma.org)>; [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org)  
**Cc:** Bruce Kendall <[Bruce@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:Bruce@edbtacomapierce.org)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives - September 13, 2022

Hello City of Tacoma,  
Attached please find a copy of my written comments for the Tacoma Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives for the September 13, 2022, Public Hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

**MADDIE MERTON**  
Vice President, Business Retention & Expansion



Cell: 253-317-1903  
950 Pacific Ave. Suite 410, Tacoma, WA 98402  
[edbTacomaPierce.org](http://edbTacomaPierce.org) | [maddie@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:maddie@edbtacomapierce.org)



950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410  
Tacoma, WA 98402

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September 13, 2022

Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98401

***RE: Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives Public Hearing 9/13/2022***

Dear City of Tacoma Councilmembers:

***This letter replaces one sent earlier today.***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment for the Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives Public Hearing. Please strike the right balance to meet the needs of our businesses, community, and the environment.

**Of the four alternatives offered by the Tideflats Subarea Plan, we support Alternative #1 or Alternative #4 as having the best chances to move the process forward. They would:**

- create the least amount of impact to existing businesses while supporting proactive investments
- have the best chance to preserve existing jobs and grow the jobs of the future
- maintain greater industrial land supply and restrict non-industrial activity in heavy industrial districts
- allow a suitable mix of light industrial within the transition areas of NE Tacoma
- support fish and wildlife habitat restoration during mitigation in advance of permitting and larger areas of habitat restoration
- provide greater coordination between the public and private sector
- support consistent planned transportation network and priority project planning needs
- not allow for housing development

As stated by the city, the Tideflats Subarea Plan and EIS Scoping process should examine every alternative through the lenses of economic prosperity for all, environmental remediation and protection, transportation and capital facilities planning, and public participation and outreach.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maddie Merton'.

Maddie Merton, Vice President, Business Retention & Expansion

**From:** Amy QV <amyvan08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Regarding Item 22-1002 Camping Ordinance

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

Dear Council Members,

I write as a community member living on the eastside urging you to not pass the camping ordinance. Without adequate supply of affordable housing and quality social services, it would be extremely inhumane to prosecute those who are already without means to defend themselves. It requires making \$32/hr to afford a 2 bedroom apartment in Tacoma, and unless the city is willing to address the wage gap, the lack of truly affordable housing (that can be accessible by people making less than 80% AMI), as well as the mental health crisis, we should leave prosecution of those experiencing homelessness off the table.

Thank You,  
Amy (Tacoma resident).

**From:** Janeen Provazek <provaj@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 8:06 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Subarea Plan suggestion to be put in the record. Thank You!  
**Attachments:** Subarea plan.pdf

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

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Dear Mayor woodards, Council Members and City Manager,

Hello. I am writing to you on behalf of myself and 350 Tacoma about the proposed Tideflats Subarea Plans. I know we share an interest in wanting a cleaner and more environmentally just City.

We want to identify what we hope will be included in the Tideflats Subarea Plan. As you know, the finalized subarea plan will determine zoning, and ultimately, the health of our community for decades to come.

First and foremost, we must develop a comprehensive plan that is guided by the climate crisis, not by the immediate or projected profits of businesses. We are truly at a fork in the road in terms of lowering carbon emissions and reducing the escalating heating up of our planet. Oceans are rising and warming up, rivers are shrinking, droughts and wildfires are world wide. Our planet continues to be less and less sustainable due to our global and local denial of what we now know we should have been doing 20+ years ago.

Subarea Alternative #3, although woefully inadequate regarding environmental measures, at least takes into consideration the need to address climate issues. If we are to align with the goals and values of Tacoma's Climate Action Plan and the urgent recommendations of our top Climate Scientists, plan #3 must be expanded to include significant environmental measures, and ones that reflect racial justice.

Plan #3 should include the following:

**Promotion of industries that do not increase carbon emissions.** We need to actively encourage industrial changes that allow us to phase off of fossil fuels. Identify clean and innovative industries/businesses. Transition the NE side to light industrial and/or commercial. Explore enhanced mitigation measures and requirements to reduce the impact of semi truck traffic, which increases air pollution and creates dust that is toxic to salmon. Do not allow any more warehouse projects. Green economies are essential to our future existence.

**Preservation and Restoration of the natural and built environment.** The tideflats have some of the lowest tree canopies in the city. We need to increase tree canopy and native vegetation, explore incentives and programs that allow for off-site habit migration with the goal of increasing the size, connectivity, and diversity of the protected habitat network within the Tideflats. Preservation should include the last cottonwood forest at Thorne and Maxwell roads, and restoration of that wetland. Make the Hylebos waterway reflect the buffer zoning that is found on the Thea Foss waterway. Finally, include mitigation efforts which would eliminate untreated stormwater runoff from flowing into Commencement Bay.

**Foster a human-friendly environment.** Create a pedestrian/bike trail along the NE Tacoma waterfront which would connect to other existing or future trail systems throughout the area; ensure access to the Tideflats for culture, education, scientific, and recreational activities.



Create new public parks and green areas. As we decrease our air pollution, the Tideflats will become a welcoming and safe area for workers and visitors.

**Advance inclusion, diversity, and environmental justice.** The Tideflats are an important cultural and historic site for the Puyallup Tribe. It would be important to identify opportunities for land ownership and management to be returned to the Puyallup Tribe. As a sovereign government, the Puyallup Tribe has agencies and resources that make them well suited to manage and steward restoration lands; any subarea plan must specifically include the safety, health and welfare of our underserved communities, who have higher rates of sickness and disease due, in part, to local environmental degradation. We must engage these communities who have been most impacted by previous decisions that were not in their best interest.

In conclusion, we strongly feel that an enhanced/amended Subarea Plan #3 would be in the best interest of public safety, creative economic growth, and environmental justice. Phasing off fossil fuels in a fair way is essential. Preserving trees, lands, wetlands and natural habitats is essential. Cleaning/shoring up our shorelines is essential. Not allowing immediate profits to dictate policy is essential. This is a time for People over Profit and Pollution.

We love our city and are looking to leaders like you to make the difficult decisions that will ensure a clean and sustainable future for us all.

Sincerely,  
Janeen Provazek  
Dan Villa  
Barb Church  
Stacy Oaks  
Heidi Stephens  
350 Tacoma

**From:** Doğan Özkan <barisicindogan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 9:41 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment

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

Health Impact Assessment (as recommended by TPCHD for industrial projects) – including health outcomes of employees and nearby residents for each of the alternatives, including cumulative air quality analysis of traffic emissions, facility emissions (not just PM 2.5, but also hazardous air pollution, and volatile organic compounds) as well as noise and light pollution  
Make the Hylebos waterway reflect the zoning that is found on the Thea Foss waterway. For example, zoning that is found on the downtown side of Thea Foss should be the same as the NE Tacoma side of the Hylebos. The land on the opposite side of the Hylebos should reflect the zoning on the opposite side of the Thea Foss, which is where the light industrial/commercial buffer would be located  
Include a pedestrian/bike trail along the NE Tacoma waterfront which would connect to other existing or future trail systems throughout the area  
Impacts on traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, and wear and tear to public roadways  
Access to the tideflats for culture, education, scientific, and recreational activities available to the public  
Water pollution study  
Noise pollution study  
Traffic study

Fostering a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents

Complete decarbonization and cessation of fossil fuels  
Create clean and innovative industries/businesses for better revenue and employment density (including a wider range of job types)  
Health Impact Assessment (see above) must be done to understand the current status of negative impacts to workers, the surrounding areas and those who should be able to use the port for recreation  
Look at all the uses in the Light Industrial zone along the east side of SR509 (Fife transition area) for an adequate light industrial/commercial buffer to residential areas  
Identify clean and innovative industries/businesses and the value that they would bring the region in terms of revenue and employment density  
Transition the NE side to light industrial and/or commercial  
Create innovation hubs for scientific research and regenerative environmental practices  
Preserving and Restoring the natural and built environment

Bring the Tideflats into closer alignment with the current Climate Emergency Declaration, Urban Forest Management Plan, and Climate Action Plan  
Every habitat restoration (from each alternative) needs to be included on the final plus more  
Preservation of the last cottonwood forest at Thorne and Maxwell, and restoration of that wetland  
No lease renewal of any fossil-fuel / non-shipping industry within our port.  
Green hydrogen creation cannot include carbon emissions; there needs to be an expectation of green energy, green industry, zero-emission goals  
Economic analysis that includes an ecosystem services valuation  
Impacts to historical and cultural sites, particularly sites of significance for indigenous peoples  
Thank you for your time,  
Sincerely  
Dogan ozkan

**From:** Michelle Mood <moodm@kenyon.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:48 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comment on Tacoma Tideflats Subarea Plan

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

This comment is in support of Alternative 3 although I find that this alternative does not go far enough in prioritizing community health, especially relative to the need for habitat and cleaner industries in order to sustain community health. We definitely need a health impact assessment or we can't strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents without the cumulative air quality analysis of traffic emissions and facility emissions. We also should have zoning that is consistent on both sides of the Hylebos waterway. I also urge the city to support a pedestrian and bike train along the NE Tacoma waterfront to connect to other trailways. The NE side should be transition to light industrial or commercial in ways that create innovation hubs for scientific research and regenerative environmental practices that help Tacoma transition to a carbon neutral future envisioned by our state. For some reason the current land uses do not have opportunities for culture, education, scientific or recreation, which is odd, since those are so key to the health of our city and of our citizens. Finally, the development plan for the Tideflats Subarea should align with the current Climate Emergency Declaration, Urban Forest Management Plan, and Climate Action Plan, and help to reverse effects of system racism as per our state guidelines.

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)  
(c) 740-233-6333

*A boomer, not a zoomer.*

**From:** dave robinson <dlrobinson66@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 11:51 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma Tide Flatt

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

To Whom it May Concern

I feel that we need less toxic industry & healthier communities. Keep the tide flats free from all fossil fuel infrastructure now and forever! I adopt by reference, the comments by 350 Tacoma that Alternative 3 is closest to my liking but it still needs work to restore the area to a more pristine habitat!

Over the next three years, **electric rates could increase by more than 20% and gas rates by almost 17% to give shareholders returns on the controversial Tacoma Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility** and other unwise investments. This is unacceptable when PSE is already Washington's most expensive utility and many customers are struggling or unable to pay their bills. Residential customers should not have to reimburse PSE for the LNG facility. The Puyallup Tribe and Earthjustice are still appealing the permits in court. The main function of the facility is to sell maritime fuel, not heat homes. PSE continues to build gas infrastructure while ignoring customer preference for renewable energy, declining demand forecasts, and the impacts of methane on the climate crisis. The [Attorney General's office](#) and the [WA Clean Energy Coalition](#) both oppose this rate increase. I oppose the facility because it is Ecocide and a genocide against humanity for failure to protect humanity from climate crisis!

Sincerely,

David Robinson  
PO Box 151  
Curlew WA 99118  
5097794967  
dlrobinson66@yahoo.com

Denial of the climate crisis is one of the greatest human rights violations in recent history!  
"I'm not going to censor myself to comfort your ignorance." — Jon Stewart

**From:** Saiyare Refaei <saiyare.refaei@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 3:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comment for Tacoma Tideflats Subarea Plan

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

To the Tacoma Tideflats Subarea Plan Committee,

I am writing as a Tacoma community member in support of Alternative 3.

Below are further suggests in addition to Alternative 3:

### **Strengthening and supporting a safe city with healthy residents**

- Health Impact Assessment (as recommended by TPCHD for industrial projects) – including health outcomes of employees and nearby residents for each of the alternatives, including cumulative air quality analysis of traffic emissions, facility emissions (not just PM 2.5, but also hazardous air pollution, and volatile organic compounds) as well as noise and light pollution
- Make the Hylebos waterway reflect the zoning that is found on the Thea Foss waterway. For example, zoning that is found on the downtown side of Thea Foss should be the same as the NE Tacoma side of the Hylebos. The land on the opposite side of the Hylebos should reflect the zoning on the opposite side of the Thea Foss, which is where the light industrial/commercial buffer would be located
- Include a pedestrian/bike trail along the NE Tacoma waterfront which would connect to other existing or future trail systems throughout the area
- Impacts on traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, and wear and tear to public roadways
- Access to the tideflats for culture, education, scientific, and recreational activities available to the public
- Water pollution study
- Noise pollution study
- Traffic study

### **Fostering a vibrant and diverse economy with good jobs for all Tacoma residents**

- Complete decarbonization and cessation of fossil fuels
- Create clean and innovative industries/businesses for better revenue and employment density (including a wider range of job types)
- Health Impact Assessment (see above) must be done to understand the current status of negative impacts to workers, the surrounding areas and those who should be able to use the port for recreation
- Look at all the uses in the Light Industrial zone along the east side of SR509 (Fife transition area) for an adequate light industrial/commercial buffer to residential areas
- Identify clean and innovative industries/businesses and the value that they would bring the region in terms of revenue and employment density
- Transition the NE side to light industrial and/or commercial
- Create innovation hubs for scientific research and regenerative environmental practices

### **Preserving and Restoring the natural and built environment**

- Bring the Tideflats into closer alignment with the current Climate Emergency Declaration, Urban Forest Management Plan, and Climate Action Plan
- Every habitat restoration (from each alternative) needs to be included on the final plus more
- Preservation of the last cottonwood forest at Thorne and Maxwell, and restoration of that wetland
- No lease renewal of any fossil-fuel / non-shipping industry within our port.

- Green hydrogen creation cannot include carbon emissions; there needs to be an expectation of green energy, green industry, zero-emission goals
- Economic analysis that includes an ecosystem services valuation
- Impacts to historical and cultural sites, particularly sites of significance for indigenous peoples
- Impacts to threatened or endangered species
- Impacts to wildlife, ecosystems, and critical areas
- Lessen greenhouse gasses, and provide the difference between the alternatives.
- Impacts to salmon, shellfish, orca, beaver, otter, birds and other wildlife, and threatened and endangered species
- Avoid creating any more Superfund sites and remediation to current Superfund sites
- Require risk bonding for businesses on the Tideflats to move the economic burden of pollution to the polluters instead of the public

#### **Advancing Equity Goals & Addressing Ongoing Systemic Inequities**

- Impacts to the Puyallup Tribe and black and brown communities regarding equity goals and combating the continued effects of systemic racism, such as Puyallup Tribal sovereignty, and air and water quality on the reservation.
- Codify ensuring that meaningful consultation occurs for future decisions regarding the Tideflats.
- Identify opportunities for culture/education/scientific/recreation on the Hylebos, which are currently not identified or listed on the alternative maps
- Identify land uses that are incompatible with a healthy and safe ecosystem and which do not support the vision or the project team's guiding principles for the entirety of the Tideflats region, where the environmental impact is too high
- Determine the monetized value of current and continuing costs of present-day pollution / heat and urban dead zones / loss of healthy soil and aquatic life
- Building design standards for going forward (solar power, green roofs)
- Exact requirement of the Growth Management Act regarding jobs
- Impacts to black, brown and indigenous communities, and how the alternatives impact equity, city equity goals, and combating the continued effects of systemic racism
- Necessity of preserving trees and greenspace, especially in areas with low access to greenspace and tree canopy
- Benefits of turning the Northeast shore into recreational zoning (no industry) for boating, beaches, and parks

Thanks,  
Saiyare (District 5)

**From:** Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Tideflats Subarea Public Hearing

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

Public Comments for Sept. 13, 2022 Public Hearing

RE: Tideflats Subarea Plans

Mayor Woodards and City Council,

First:  
It's important to first state that previous comments (submitted on Tacoma-Pierce County letterhead and signed by some members of the Tideflats Advisory Group/TAG) are not speaking for all members of the TAG. In fact, many other TAG members, such as myself, strongly disagree with the approach of "protecting industrial land" above environment and public health.

This whole subarea review seems off-track from the reason residents had called for it. The main concern was environmental and the desire to move away from polluting industry, yet each of the offered four plans are leaning far more toward protecting heavy industrial zones.

So, none of the alternative options are acceptable yet, but starting with alternative three, my preferred plan would include:

\* Every habitat preservation/restoration area from each alternative should be included in the final plan, such as every tree and green space protected, and more shorelines restored. One specific absolute is that we must preserve the cottonwood stands / natural green spaces at roughly Thorne Road and Maxwell Way. Those are some of the last natural areas working hard to counteract air pollution and heat, maintaining water retention and urban wildlife in that area. That absolutely, unequivocally must be retained on any final plan, and those wetlands restored.

Second:  
\* There needs to be the same "buffer" as on the downtown side added on the Hylebos side for NE Tacoma.

Third:  
\* a Health Impact Assessment must be done to understand the current status of negative impacts to workers, the surrounding areas and those who should be able to use the port for recreation. Air/Water/Soil testing must occur to for conditions monitoring and costs to health/environment as opposed to that of only corporate profit.

Also, there needs to be inclusion of this missing data:

- \* the monetized value of current and continuing costs of present-day pollution / heat and urban dead zones / loss of healthy soil and aquatic life.
- \* building design standards for going forward (solar power, green roofs)
- \* please make clear any exact requirement of the Growth Management Act regarding jobs (since this is often referred to, but never detailed)

None of the currently proposed plans seem to be seriously considering climate change, sea-level rise or the heat index in that area. We cannot continue with business-as-usual, and this is the perfect turning-point time to not only support local trade/shipping but also alternative non-toxic industry which means adjusted zoning for:

- \* No lease renewal of any fossil-fuel / non-shipping industry within our port.
- \* Green hydrogen creation cannot include carbon emissions; there needs to be an expectation of green energy, green industry, zero-emission goals.
- \* Environmental studies and species protection should be reviewed often, not for convenience of fast-tracking permitting.

The Port seems continually allowed to breach environmental buffers with no consequences, and the "mitigation" they offer in return is not enough (or, too short lived).

A quick aerial view shows that the port has failed to adequately preserve nearly any natural areas. That aerial view also shows, however, that there is plenty of currently open space for storage containers... so absolutely no trees should be cut or any remaining natural space be altered, especially the Thorne/Maxwell cottonwoods which (in addition to what was noted above) is also a needed natural space for workers. Just because the port breached the wetland buffers doesn't mean this area can now all be destroyed. If that's allowed then what's to stop the mitigated site from being next?

This Thorne/Maxwell area is priceless and no short-or-long term use could ever make up for losing it. It's time to find better more creative alternative solutions than bulldozing vegetation and redirecting water run-off. It's frankly astonishing that so little natural land remains in the port area, and that it has to be fought for; so these last forested areas absolutely must be retained on every alternative option.

Only a few decades ago, this was a pristine tidalflats, teaming with life and vibrant complex ecosystem -- now, this area is largely a dead-zone/heat-zone and massive contributor to carbon emissions and aquatic death. It's time to not only acknowledge the port's contribution to climate change, but that we are overdue to correct it. Please start with Alternative Three and add all of the above items as additional amendments.

Thank you,  
Heidi Stephens  
Tacoma Resident



**From:** Julie Andrzejewski <julieruth17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 4:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Letter on the EIS Alternatives  
**Attachments:** Tacoma City Council letter 2022.docx

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

Dear Mayor Woodards, City Council Members, and City Manager,

Please see a letter from Indivisible Tacoma attached.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Andrzejewski

September 12, 2022

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

**Indivisible Tacoma is writing to support EIS Preliminary Alternative 3 of those presented.**

**It should be clear by now that all other Alternatives will contribute to the continued rapid escalation of climate change already wreaking disaster after disaster on every part of the planet** – from the floods in Pakistan covering one-third of their land and the loss of island nations to sea rise – to the ever-worsening drought and fires we are experiencing here on the West Coast of North America. Indeed, we all recently learned about the rapid disintegration of the Thwaites glacier in West Antarctica (nicknamed the Doomsday Glacier) which is on the verge of collapse that is estimated to raise sea level by 2 feet or more in the not-so-distant future (Nature Geoscience). And that is just one of many around the world that are melting rapidly into the sea.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report by 200 worldwide scientists already sounded a RED ALERT in 2021 – meaning the earth is on a trajectory to becoming uninhabitable. This report documents the extreme harm and death to people, wildlife, forests, and seas resulting from climate change – created primarily from the extraction and use of fossil fuels. We ignore these warnings at our peril.

This is not hyperbole. Yet, despite this incontrovertible scientific evidence, some businesses are still pushing to maintain or expand fossil fuels at the Port of Tacoma and elsewhere for their own profits regardless of future consequences.

**Therefore, we urge Council members to support EIS Alternative 3.** *It is the only plan that integrates realistic climate science and greenhouse gas impacts into the plans, programs, and investments. It is the only plan that prioritizes steps to achieve decarbonization of Port and industrial activity and to accelerate emissions reductions to meet a 2030 Goal. It is the only plan that provides strong support for Tribal Treaty rights, equity and social justice, and proactive habitat protection and salmon recovery.*

**Important enhancements to strengthen Alternative 3:**

- Reduction of semi-truck traffic
- Rapid phasing out of all fossil fuel industries
- No new warehouse projects
- Increase and preserve tree canopy (necessary everywhere but especially at the Port)
- Create new public parks with native plants and a bike/pedestrian trail
- Return land ownership to the Puyallup Tribe wherever possible

Indivisible Tacoma stands with the Puyallup Tribe and South Sound citizens to ask Council members to make the scientifically-based, morally-right decisions necessary to save the lives and livelihoods of all constituents and to save our beautiful region, state, and world. We ask you to be leaders and protectors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julie Andrzejewski and Ellen Floyd, Co-Chairs  
Indivisible Tacoma  
PO Box 7454, Tacoma, WA 98417

**From:** Yvonne <yvonne.mccarty@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy  
**Subject:** Comments for Tideflats Subarea Plan Public Hearing  
**Attachments:** Letter for Tideflats Subarea Plan Public Hearing.pdf

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

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members,

Please see attached letter with my comments for the Tideflats Subarea Plan Alternatives Public Hearing scheduled tomorrow.

The time is now for the City Council to take bold action. Option #3 of the Preliminary Alternatives does not go far enough, please review my comments and suggestions for bolder action in the attached letter. I appreciate your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne McCarty  
Chair, NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council  
[www.netnc.org](http://www.netnc.org)  
253-219-0349

Yvonne McCarty, Chair  
 Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood Council  
 Yvonne.mccarty@comcast.net

9/12/2022

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members,

The first thing I would like to share is my vision for the future of the Tideflats.

*The Tideflats is a place that exists ultimately for the benefit of the people with clean industries and businesses that operate with zero emissions, zero spills, and zero incidents. It is a region that is healthy, safe and welcoming to employees, visitors, residents, and wildlife. It is a place that you can find ample environmental, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities that honor the land and people that were here prior to industrial neglect of the last century.*

The Tideflats can be all these things and still provide employment growth for employees at all skill and education levels through clean maritime trade and transportation and clean/innovative businesses. This is the Tideflats that I would like to leave the future generations of Tacoma.

Next, of the four preliminary alternatives, there are no options that will be successful in implementing the vision I just laid out. However, I believe that option 3 is the closest option to that end. I would ask that you modify option 3 to include the following 5 points, with the #1 as the highest priority:

- 1) **Make the zoning on both sides of the Hylebos waterway reflect the zoning that is found on and planned for both sides of the Thea Foss waterway. The zoning that is found on the downtown side of Thea Foss should be the same as the NE Tacoma side of the Hylebos (along Marine View Drive). The land on the opposite side of the Hylebos should reflect the zoning on the opposite side of the Thea Foss, which is where the light industrial/commercial buffer should be located.**
- 2) Specifically identifying opportunities for culture/education/scientific/recreation on the Hylebos, which are currently not identified or listed on the alternative map.
- 3) Look at all the uses in the Light Industrial zone along the east side of SR509 (Fife transition area) to ensure that they provide an adequate light industrial/commercial buffer from residential areas.
- 4) Specifically identify land uses that are incompatible with a healthy and safe ecosystem and that do not support the vision or the project team's guiding principles for the entirety of the Tideflats region. For example, where the environmental impact, health impact, or safety risks are just too high.
- 5) Include a pedestrian/bike trail along the NE Tacoma waterfront that would connect to other existing or future trail systems throughout the South Sound.

Yvonne McCarty, Chair  
Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood Council  
Yvonne.mccarty@comcast.net

Finally, here are some of the things that should be included in the scope of the EIS:

- 1) Health Impact Assessment (required by the Board of Health for large industrial projects) – including health outcomes of employees and nearby residents
- 2) Cumulative air pollution study (not just PM 2.5, but also toxic air pollution, hazardous air pollution, volatile organic compounds, etc.)
- 3) Water pollution study
- 4) Noise pollution study
- 5) Traffic study
- 6) Identification of clean and innovative industries/businesses and value that they would bring the region in terms of revenue and employment density (including a range of job types)
- 7) Economic analysis that includes an ecosystem services valuation
- 8) Impacts to historical and cultural sites, particularly sites of significance for indigenous peoples
- 9) Impacts to threatened or endangered species
- 10) Impacts to wildlife, ecosystems, and critical areas
- 11) Economic and social impacts to the local communities – including the impact to social inequities, quality of life, available housing, mobility through the area, visual blight, odors, etc.

The future of Tacoma depends on your courage and willingness to take bold action to define a roadmap for our city that will enable it to thrive for generations. Tacoma can continue to be a place where all dirty and dangerous industry flocks and where our most vulnerable communities suffer environmental injustice and poor health outcomes, or you can be responsible for charting a path to a cleaner, healthier, and safer city with livable communities and abundant clean jobs.

Option #3 of the preliminary alternatives doesn't go far enough to ensure the vision of a thriving, clean, and healthy city. To take bold action, you'll need to go much farther than what has been outlined in option #3 (please review my suggestions again on the first page). The outcome of the Tideflats Subarea Planning process will define the destiny of Tacoma for generations. You have a duty to your city to be brave and make decisions that will: 1) protect the citizens, workers, and natural environment; 2) enhance the quality of life in our communities; and 3) make way for the jobs and businesses of the future.

Sincerely,

Yvonne McCarty

Chair, Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood Council

**From:** Mauer, Matthew <mmauer@portoftacoma.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:35 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Port of Tacoma Tideflats Subarea EIS Alternatives Comment Letter 9.13.22  
**Attachments:** 9-13-22-Tideflats Subarea Public Hearing Ltr Final.pdf

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

Dear Mayor Woodards and Council,

Please see the attached Port of Tacoma comment letter regarding the September 13<sup>th</sup> public hearing on the Tideflats Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement alternatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Matthew Mauer**  
Government Affairs Manager  
**PORT OF TACOMA**  
O: 253.888.4734 | C: 253.241.8899  
[www.portoftacoma.com](http://www.portoftacoma.com)



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September 13, 2022

The Honorable Mayor Woodards  
Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Subarea Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives

Dear Mayor Woodards and Council:

On behalf of the Port of Tacoma, we would again like to thank you for allowing us to actively participate in the Tideflats Subarea Plan process. Shaping the future of the working waterfront and Tideflats is a necessary and timely endeavor – one that will have lasting impacts for generations to come.

The Port of Tacoma is committed to working with our fellow stakeholders in the community to combat some of the most pressing issues of our time. Climate change, habitat restoration, housing and sea level rise are all compelling challenges that we want to work in partnership to address. The Port of Tacoma is a leader in economic development, environmental remediation, habitat restoration and reducing air emissions. As one of the few natural deep-water seaports in the country, we have a natural amenity that cannot be replicated elsewhere, making it critical to preserve its working waterfront features.

As you begin the next step of reviewing the four Environmental Impact Statement alternatives that the Tideflats Subarea Steering Committee unanimously agreed to study, we urge you to move them all forward, refraining from any amendments that will further delay this process. Our community has watched as the development of this plan has been delayed repeatedly and we must now act. While the Port has significant concerns regarding the substance of some of the alternatives being studied, we believe in a full and transparent process that considers the wide-ranging interests held by those in our community.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Meyer".

Don Meyer, Commission President  
Port of Tacoma Commission

**From:** Maddie Merton <maddie@edbtacomapierce.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** Atkinson, Stephen; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Bruce Kendall  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives - September 13, 2022  
**Attachments:** MM Comments for EIS Tideflats 9 13 2022 - FINAL.pdf

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

Hello City of Tacoma,  
Attached please find a copy of my written comments for the Tacoma Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives for the September 13, 2022, Public Hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

**MADDIE MERTON**  
Vice President, Business Retention & Expansion



Cell: 253-317-1903  
950 Pacific Ave. Suite 410, Tacoma, WA 98402  
[edbTacomaPierce.org](http://edbTacomaPierce.org) | [maddie@edbtacomapierce.org](mailto:maddie@edbtacomapierce.org)





September 13, 2022

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98401

253.383.4726  
[edbTacomaPierce.org](http://edbTacomaPierce.org)

***RE: Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives Public Hearing 9/13/2022***

Dear City of Tacoma Councilmembers:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment for the Tideflats Plan and EIS Alternatives Public Hearing. My name is Maddie Merton, Vice President for Business Retention and Expansion at the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County.

Please strike the right balance to meet the needs of our businesses, community, and the environment.

**Of the four different alternatives offered by the Tideflats Subarea Plan, we are supportive of Alternative #2 for these reasons:**

- creates the least amount of impact to existing businesses while supporting proactive investments
- meets the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) 10,000 new jobs target
- maintains greater industrial land supply and restricts non-industrial activity in heavy industrial districts
- allows a suitable mix of light industrial within the transition areas of NE Tacoma
- supports fish and wildlife habitat restoration during mitigation in advance of permitting and larger areas of habitat restoration
- provides greater coordination between the public and private sector
- supports consistent planned transportation network and priority project planning needs
- does not allow for housing development

As stated by the city, the Tideflats Subarea Plan and EIS Scoping process should examine every alternative through the lenses of economic prosperity for all, environmental remediation and protection, transportation and capital facilities planning, and public participation and outreach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maddie Merton, Vice President, Business Retention & Expansion

**From:** David Schroedel <davids@tacomachamber.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 1:44 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina  
**Cc:** Andrea Reay; Pauli, Elizabeth; City Clerk's Office; Atkinson, Stephen; Huffman, Peter  
**Subject:** Public Hearing: Tideflats Subarea EIS  
**Attachments:** Tacoma City Council Ltr 130922 Tideflats EIS.pdf

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

Mayor Woodards & City Council-

Please find the attached letter from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber President & CEO, Andrea Reay, with comments on the Tideflats Subarea EIS Alternatives. As always, please do not hesitate to contact Andrea or myself if you have any questions or feedback.

Andrea can be reached at the contacts below and is copied on this email.

Email: [andrear@tacomachamber.org](mailto:andrear@tacomachamber.org)

Office: (253) 627-2175 | Direct: (253) 682-1736

The Chamber and the business community look forward to working with the City to grow our diverse job base through all of the tools available.

-David

**David Schroedel, AICP**

Vice President, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber  
Executive Director, Downtown Tacoma Partnership

*If you receive an email from me during off hours, I do not expect a response. Please enjoy your personal time.*

950 Pacific Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98402

[davids@tacomachamber.org](mailto:davids@tacomachamber.org)

[www.tacomachamber.org](http://www.tacomachamber.org)

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

*Your Voice for Business*

## TACOMA - PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER



13 September 2022

Tacoma City Council  
City of Tacoma  
747 Market St  
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Public Hearing Comments on Tideflats Subarea Plan Proposed EIS Alternatives

Honorable Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as part of the public hearing regarding proposed EIS Alternatives for the Tideflats Subarea Planning Process. The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber believes we need to use this opportunity to support a diverse manufacturing, industrial and maritime sector built on the significant investments already made in these areas throughout the tideflats. For this reason, the Chamber believes that Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 best reflect the needs of the community to balance all of the competing demands.

#### Background

However, before diving into the details of this position, I wanted to begin by correcting some misinformation. Specifically, a response to the letter you received from the planning commission following its meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This letter was the planning commission's opportunity to provide you with their comments and recommendations as it relates to the proposed scope and alternatives for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Tideflats Subarea Plan.

We have specific concerns with the letter and misinformation that threatens to further erode trust and confidence within the business community for the City of Tacoma's planning process.

It's important to set the stage and remember how this process started in 2017 with the planning commission recommending new interim regulations for industrial lands in Tacoma. After more than 4 years of hard work, on November 16, 2021 the City Council adopted new land use regulations for the Tideflats that restricted business uses and limited growth of existing uses.

As we look at the subarea plan we need to both recognize the years of work involved to arrive at the current land use regulations and recognize that the subarea plan must be about much more than land use and zoning. The subarea plan must be in part about bringing incentives to grow business in Tacoma. There is no better community stakeholder to help and assist the City with that process than the business community itself.

As mentioned in previous letters sent to the City, the business community has not been fully engaged and included in the process. The Tideflats Advisory Group was not facilitated in a way that allowed for robust and open discussion and solution finding. This coupled with how the programmatic EIS was communicated with maps of demonstrated extremes, some of which fully eliminated businesses and private property, created more distrust.



The Chamber recognizes that this tension has existed with the community long before the introduction of the subarea plan. Some shuttered businesses have left deep wounds within the community. Some of these historical businesses operated on what are now superfund sites, and require a joint effort between business, community and government to return these sites to productive use.

However, it is a categorical falsehood to lay blame or assign culpability to any business or industrial use currently operating as a responsible party to these superfund sites. Unfortunately, that seems to be exactly what is happening as policy and community sentiment encourage vitriol against our current businesses asking them to pay penance for sins they have not committed.

Looking back and understanding our past and the hurt and injustice that has occurred to both the environment and our native population is crucial as we look forward to a future that is full of environmental, social and economic justice. We cannot move forward however, when misinformation and outright lies cloud our decision-making process. Or when key stakeholders are not respected, heard and included in the solution finding. As the saying goes "two wrongs don't make a right." We implore you to therefore accept the following facts that counter the specific misinformation and mischaracterization of the business community in the planning commission's letter.

In the letter it is referenced that the: Tideflats being "home to several industrial uses that actively work against efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses, create local jobs, and build affordable housing."

While several industrial uses operating in the Tideflats are energy related enterprises, it is a mischaracterization to say that they "are actively working against efforts to reduce greenhouse gasses." In fact, the energy-based businesses located in the Tideflats are doing the exact opposite devoting time, energy and capital to reduce greenhouse gasses. Not only for their own operations, but for the benefit of all energy users.

A few key investments and activity to reduce environmental impacts include:

- US Oil has made numerous investments to reduce greenhouse gases both onsite and in the fuels they produce. The Tacoma facility accounts for 10-15% of the onsite emissions that the refineries up north produce. That is partly the result of size, but also the tens of millions of dollars invested over the last five to ten years that make it one of the lowest emitting of facilities of its type in the country.
- Seaport Sound Terminal is one of the largest renewable fuel facilities in Washington State. They have made significant investments in renewable energy since bringing biodiesel blending in 2007. This supports many of our local city governments and military. Seaport has led the way in bringing ultra-low sulfur diesel capability to the tug and fishing industries and they have offered renewable diesel for over 6 years. Their complex energy infrastructure is critical to not only our region's energy needs today but the energy needs of the future. Seaport Sound has some of the best environmental technology nationwide and has made these multimillion-dollar investments with no government mandates or requirements.
- WestRock Tacoma's early investment in its biomass co-generation energy project has produced nearly 3.8 billion kW-hours of renewable electricity since start up while also providing steam for mill operations, accounting for approximately 90% of the facility's total



energy requirement. In addition, the Tacoma mill operation purchases for recycle nearly 350 Million pounds of regionally sourced used boxes and office waste paper each year. Supporting the Tacoma operation, WestRock's corporate target for all of its products is to be 100% recyclable, compostable, or reusable by 2025, and to reduce remaining GHG emissions by another 27.5% by 2030.

- Port of Tacoma continues to implement it's Clean Air Strategy. The cornerstone of the strategy is to reach zero-emissions by 2050. Already since its launch in 2008, the Port has reduced diesel emissions by 80% and greenhouse gas emissions by 20%.

The other piece of misinformation contained in the letter is that businesses in the Tideflats "work against efforts to...create local jobs". Nothing could be further from the truth as business enterprises located in the Tideflats are responsible for creating 2,143 direct local jobs as of 2019. Many of these are union and family wage career jobs that thousands of families have depended on for generations to build economic equity. We need and must encourage a diverse economic ecosystem so that all in our community have access to living wage employment. A few key facts and metrics on manufacturing and industrial local job creation include:

- There are 219 businesses in the Tideflats, employing 2,143 people. A 2019 University of Washington Tacoma study estimates that just 20 of these businesses account for \$2.0 billion in direct and \$3.3 billion in indirect economic activity.
- These 20 businesses alone pay millions of dollars in taxes annually to the City (\$15,384,486 in B&O tax and \$5,731,000 in property tax).
- Trying to replace high wage industrial jobs in the Tideflats with unknown replacement jobs is a recipe for economic stagnation. For example, on average every single durable manufacturing job creates 7.44 additional jobs in the community due to spending for supplies at the job site plus the spending of salaries and wages earned. Few other industries come close, particularly those that are hypothetical.

The final piece of misinformation in the letter refers to businesses that "work against efforts to...build affordable housing". Again, nothing could be further from the truth as the business community recognizes and supports increasing our housing stock and building more housing, all housing types not only as a fundamental need in our community to guard against displacement but as a necessary requirement for economic and workforce development and a key component to successful business attraction and retention.

#### EIS Alternative Priorities

The letter from the planning commission mentions a request that the DEIS "examine a mix of incentives and disincentives that can encourage and accelerate appropriate industrial changes in the Tideflats." The Chamber agrees that a Programmatic EIS can be a really useful and powerful tool for business development and growth as demonstrated in other parts of the City of Tacoma.

It has the potential to streamline permitting by many months and save time and money. By doing comprehensive review for traffic, environmental impacts such as storm water, etc. it makes the work of permitting much more certain and timely. The business community thrives in predictability and certainty. We need to find a way to come together and discuss how we can incentivize business, increase certainty and predictability. Not only for the future of Tacoma's economy but for our present as well.



We should collectively be focused on improvement of our infrastructure which is essential for our community to maintain competitiveness and accelerate job growth. These are the opportunities within the planning process that seem to have gotten lost as the focus has returned, again, to land use despite just completing a 4-year process exclusive to land use.

Whether the inability expand our scope to address clear needs is due to the difficulty of outreach and engagement during COVID or due to past hurt and mistrust, we have a responsibility and an obligation to take what's left of the process and lean in to having the hard conversations and developing a plan together; a plan that supports and preserves our environment now and for future generations and supports and preserves our economy.

As we've mentioned before, these are not mutually exclusive priorities, and we look forward to finding a way forward together. As a unified community we can forge a path forward that helps preserve the diversity and strength of our economic ecosystem while also encouraging Tacoma to continue to be a leader in environmental sustainability. However, we can only do that work together, looking at facts, guarding against misinformation and moving forward with collective respect and understanding.

Finally, we urge you to not pursue any alternative that does not adequately address and center the overarching themes for the subarea planning process including:

- Economic Prosperity for All
- Environmental Remediation and Protection
- Transportation and Capital Facilities Planning
- Public Participation and Outreach

We need a robust, diverse, and thriving manufacturing and industrial center to capitalize on our equitable economic development and workforce strategies and initiatives. The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber believes that Alternative 1 or Alternative 4 best reflect the balance needed to move the process forward to a successful completion.

The Chamber has a rich history, over 138 years, of connecting and convening our community to come together in that spirit of collaboration and partnership and we hope to continue to do so for many years to come. We are stronger together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea H. Reay  
President and CEO, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber  
Manufacturing and Industrial Council of the South Sound

**From:** Keith Schuster <keithschuster1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Ushka, Catherine  
**Subject:** Written Comment - Ordinance – Establishing Buffers Prohibiting Camping Near Temporary Shelters – September 27, 2022  
**Attachments:** Tacoma City Council Study Session Input 09-13-2022.docx  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please include the following for public comment (see attached), regarding the Ordinance – Establishing Buffers Prohibiting Camping Near Temporary Shelters – September 27, 2022.

Thank you.

Keith Schuster  
Property Owner, City of Tacoma



## Camping Ordinance

### Public comment: Ordinance – Establishing Buffers Prohibiting Camping Near Temporary Shelters – September 27, 2022

September 13, 2022

In the City Council Action Memorandum put out on September 7, 2022, the following was noted:

- A Department of Justice report concluded that evidence shows that unsanctioned encampments lead to “higher levels of petty and serious crime” for “areas adjacent” to them including “drug dealing and usage, disturbance, theft, prowling, burglary, panhandling, fighting, vandalism, armed robbery, rape and aggravated assault”,
- Those living in encampments are “a vulnerable population” and the “unsanctioned encampments are “not safe locations to live”,
- Unsanctioned encampments lead to a high volume of 911 and 311 calls; which calls are reduced when the unsanctioned encampments are removed.
- And, despite the fact that our shelters are safer places to live and the fact that City staff work tirelessly on a daily basis offering shelter and services to those in the encampments, only 18% accept help.

In addition, the Tacoma Police Department Chief of Police commissioned an independent third party study regarding a plan of action to help curb violent crimes in the City. The pertinent information from that report, states (in part):

"Overall street-level violent crime in Tacoma is on the rise. From April 2019 through April 2021, violent crime remained relatively flat (with some seasonal increases) but then increased dramatically over the past 12 months. As of March 2022, the average monthly number of reported violent street crimes was approximately 73% higher than it was in the previous year. This is an alarming increase that requires a police-led, community-wide response to reducing violence and arresting and prosecuting violent offenders in the short term and a comprehensive set of public safety solutions in the longer term. To be effective, those solutions must address the social and physical disorder, crime, and fear of crime related to homelessness. Compelling research evidence suggests that reducing physical and social disorder will contribute to an overall reduction in crime in targeted places (Braga et al., 2019)." (Emphasis Added)

Tacoma Police Department Violent Crime Reduction Plan, 2022-25 Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph.D. Rob Tillyer, Ph.D. Brandon Tregle, J.D., Ph.D, See pages 5-6

[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_6/File/Police/Crime%20Plan.pdf](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Police/Crime%20Plan.pdf)

According to the City of Tacoma’s website:

The City of Tacoma has been operating under a Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency since 2017 to address the health and safety concerns caused by growing encampments.



The Tacoma City Council passed [Ordinance 28430](#), on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, declaring a state of public health emergency (sic), and has subsequently extended the ordinance several times with the current metric for completion changing from a fixed date until 95% of individuals unsheltered individuals identified during the annual [Pierce County Point-in-Time count](#) have access to shelter for three consecutive years.

In November 2021, The Washington State Department of Transportation provided a presentation titled “Public Health Associated with Homeless Encampments on Department owned rights of way”, by Roger Millar Secretary of Transportation and Pasco Bakotich Director, Maintenance Operations.

They state (in part):

“ ... we have learned from our partners that the “success” rate in working with the unsheltered is approximately 20% of those offered the housing and services will not re-enter the unsheltered population, meaning about 80% will be unsheltered once again. In order to be successful, it is imperative that our partners have funding for and access to housing, security and social services including, but not limited to, healthcare, substance abuse treatment and mental health services. Only after the services are in place and the needs of the unsheltered are met, will WSDOT be able to successfully accomplish our goals.”

The City of Tacoma, the State of Washington Department of Transportation, and the Department of Ecology are clear in the ordinances and RCW’s regarding the importance of public safety – including safety from criminal activities, bio hazards, waste, litter, garbage, human waste, and junk and derelict cars.

The laws are intended for everyone and for the benefit of everyone. The homeless and unhoused campers are NOT above the law.

Chapter 70A.200 RCW WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND MODEL LITTER CONTROL ACT is the governing law in the state for EVERYONE. There are no exceptions in this RCW for people camping out on public property.

The Boise case and decision does not carve out any exemptions for public safety issues. This RCW covers everyone in the state. No exceptions.

The Legislature made it clear in their preamble and intent (in part below):

(1) The legislature finds:

- (a) Washington state is experiencing rapid population growth and its citizens are increasingly mobile;
- (b) There is a fundamental need for a healthful, clean, and beautiful environment;
- (c) The proliferation and accumulation of litter discarded throughout this state impairs this need and constitutes a public health hazard.

Compliance with the Boise case is important, but so is compliance with our environmental laws and the RCW.

The issues of litter, garbage, human waste, derelict cars, etc. are addressed in this RCW. Non-compliance with this RCW has both civil and criminal sanctions. Selective enforcement of some laws

over others is simply unfair to the citizenry that owns homes, and for those that obey the laws and rules that we are all subject to in a functioning society.

It's been said that one of the most important functions of government is to ensure that laws are enforced, so that order is maintained within the City and State. Citizens must comply with certain mandatory obligations, which include obeying laws and paying taxes; including federal, state, local, Social Security, property and sales taxes.

Are these campers abiding by any of these same requirements? No.

One component of 'Moral Hazard' involves one party taking risks that others will have to pay for. That is in part what is happening now with these campers. Some are indeed engaging in risk behaviors that others have to pay for and for taking risks with no natural consequences attached. That simply is not fair to law abiding citizens.

It's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

The 2022 community survey (this is the primary governing document to help steer community input during the budget process and to help guide Council decisions) indicates that virtually every metric used to measure performance and satisfaction with city services is DOWN, year over year, over the last three years! Some of these metrics, including safety and dissatisfaction with homelessness, are materially down. In other words, all performance measures have been degraded or declined. Essentially a failure in every goal (failure is defined as not reaching the goal and/or degraded performance). This survey has a 95% confidence level.

With that being said, the City Manager received a raise in pay and benefits this year. The current City Manager makes: \$287,872, up from \$278,720 in 2021. The state of Washington Governor (Governor Jay Inslee) makes \$190,632. How in the world can the Mayor and the City Council justify giving a raise to a key government leader, when that leader has failed in virtually every metric that's important to the community? No wonder there's a loss of confidence in the City of Tacoma government!

The City of Tacoma has been doing essentially the same thing over and over again, since at least 2015, and expecting different results. This is the definition of insanity. The facts and evidence are clear that Tacoma's community safety and vitality has suffered, and the homeless population is worse off than ever before.

### **Summary:**

What should the Tacoma City Council do? Enact and enforce laws that protect the public from encampments; specifically, the proposed Ordinance – Establishing Buffers Prohibiting Camping Near Temporary Shelters. Protect the public – NOW!

Keith Schuster, CPA-Retired  
CW5-Retired, US Army  
Property Owner, City of Tacoma

**From:** Trisha Novotny <trisha@247moms.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; woodards@cityoftacoma.org; Diaz, Olgy; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe  
**Cc:** Steve Novotny; adam.lynn@thenewstribune.com; aneedles@thenewstribune.com; tips@komonews.com; eveningtips@king5.com; newstips@kiro7.com  
**Subject:** URGENT: 10-block buffer ordinance

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

Tacoma City Council

I am writing this email to oppose the potential 10-block buffer ordinance that would prohibit encampments within 10 blocks of nine specific locations where there are city sanctioned shelters. I realize you are making an attempt to appear as if you are trying to create safe environments for those within the 10 block radius. However this does not address the bigger issue and if you are able to create an ordinance that makes it illegal for Homeless to create non-sanctioned encampments within those 10 blocks.

Please answer the question as to why the citizens of Tacoma living beyond this 10 block radius would have to continue live with unsafe homeless encampments in their neighborhoods? These homeless encampments have created unsafe living conditions, continued drug selling and use, increased theft to this living in theses areas, increased shootings, illegal structures being built that are not permitted, illegal use of power by tapping into the wires they pull down along with fires that result from these unsafe encampments.

These  
illegal encampments often move from being on the city streets to then taking  
over any private property in that area.

This  
10 block buffer ordinance only going to cause additional encampments to begin  
beyond that 10 block buffer as well as grow the other encampments larger

We  
need an ordinance that protects the entire city of Tacoma. By only protection a  
10 block area you are failing to protect and service the rest of the community  
of Tacoma.

Please  
choose wisely for our community where we work and pay taxes to support a safe  
livable community

Currently  
we build and own many affordable houses complexes that in goof faith we built  
for the residents of this community. However they are now vacating  
because of the homeless encampment as well as those coming to view are  
units are now saying they are no longer interested because of the homeless  
living near our properties.

This  
is affecting our families, our tenants, our employees

I can be reached at 253-222-5434

**Trisha Novotny**

**CEO Novotny Inc**

**SNR Property Management**

**From:** Heidi <batlmaidn3@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:00 AM  
**To:** Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Daniels, Kiara; Blocker, Keith; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Woodards, Victoria; City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Ordinance on September 13

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

September 13, 2022

Mayor and Council Member for the City of Tacoma:

I am in *support* of the proposed ordinance prohibiting camping, storage of personal belongings on public property around Temporary Shelters and wish that Schools would also be included. As a person that lives near and is involved in the south 69<sup>th</sup> and Proctor TEMS Site, I have seen firsthand the effects that these outside encampments have on the residents of the Tiny Home Village.

When the TEMS site was first proposed in this area the community was very concerned of the several encampments (S 69<sup>th</sup> and Adams all the way to South Burlington Way, the South Tacoma Business District, and at Manitou Park right next to Manitou Park School just to name a few). It took the community six months after several emails/talks to LIHI and the City to get the encampment removed at the end of S 69<sup>th</sup> Street less than a few car lengths away from the TEMS Site. Other neighbors and I have worked diligently with LIHI to try to keep the area clean and free of encampments so our Tiny Home neighbors can feel safe and welcomed. This to me is important in making these sites successful for people transitioning to permanent housing. Please also consider always having 24 hour security for all Temporary Shelters, since it is rumored that the proposed 34<sup>th</sup> and Pacific site may not have graveyard security.

I also want you to know how wonderful and engaged Nicholas Turner and the LIHI staff at the TEMS site have been. We brought pickers and bags down to the TEMS in hopes that the TEMS site would engage the residents to clean up and around the site. Some of the resident's help clean up even on the outside of the site and when we do our monthly clean up in the neighborhood some residents have asked if they could help. To me that is success.

Please consider a unanimous vote for this proposed ordinance prohibiting camping, storage of personal belongings on public property around Temporary Shelters this is key to success in my opinion.

Thank you, Council Member Hines and the others involved on this proposed ordinance for being bold enough in taking action on this sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

Heidi White, South Tacoma



**From:** Mark <tjmarkiemark@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 11:08 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment for Study Session Tuesday 9/13 regarding new camping ordinance

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

Dear city clerk,

Please include my statement in tomorrow's study session regarding the new camping ordinance. Thank you

Hello my name is Mark H. (Haley if you need to include my last name) and I live downtown on the Foss Waterway. Thank you city council, city manager and mayor for letting me submit written comment regarding the proposed camping ordinance. I want to voice my support for this proposed ordinance.

The new proposed camping ordinance would be a great step in getting the houseless individuals in our city out of the elements and into the shelters we have set up for them. People in unsanctioned encampments are vulnerable and preyed upon by drug dealers and sexual predators. They are also so scattered around the city so that we cannot focus resources and help to them because we don't know exactly where they all are. If people are in our city shelters instead of unsanctioned camps, we can better focus our city resources to getting them the help they need and off the streets. Studies have shown that people have a way better chance of getting out of homelessness through shelter space and resources instead of being left out in unsanctioned encampments to fend for themselves.

This ordinance would also help persuade other neighborhoods in the city to be more open to the idea of shelter space in their community. Currently all of our shelters are surrounded by unsanctioned encampments. That does not make other areas of the Tacoma want to embrace the idea of a shelters in their neighborhood. Other neighborhoods would be more excepting if this ordinance were to be adopted. Nobody would be excepting of a new shelter if it would bring numerous unsafe unsanctioned camps into the area around it. I believe other neighborhoods in the city need to step up and have shelter space in their communities to help the unhoused. Downtown, hilltop, the south end and the east side shouldn't be the only neighborhoods hosting the majority of Tacoma's shelter space for our houseless neighbors.

In closing I want to thank the council for bringing this ordinance forward. I think this ordinance and future areas of safe parking spaces for RVs are key pieces moving towards getting all of our houseless neighbors out of unsafe unsanctioned camps and into shelter. Right now the number of unsanctioned camps continues to explode and a cold winter is coming. I fear for those who will be left outside in these inhumane conditions. We have all seen what a hands-off zero enforcement policy towards homelessness has caused. It caused an explosion of unsanctioned/unsafe camping all around the city. We need to turn the corner on homelessness and this is a great first step in getting houseless people the help and shelter they desperately need. Please support this ordinance. Thank you for your time.

-Mark

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** K Dinicola <karend@harbornet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Prohibit unsanctioned encampments

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

Dear City Council Members,  
Thank you for considering a camping ban in the vicinities of sanctioned shelters for our homeless population.

The sanctioned shelters must be a safe haven for those who have chosen to accept help.

Please take steps to expand this ban to the vicinities around schools, parks, libraries, and other safe havens for vulnerable people in our city.

Solving the complex problems associated with homelessness is going to require ongoing difficult policy decisions. Thank you for having the courage to take these first steps to protect people most at risk from the dangerous actions of the people who take advantage of others in and around these unsafe unsanctioned encampments.

Karen Dinicola  
Tacoma citizen

Sent from my mobile phone  
253-759-8098

**From:** Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:37 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; City Clerk's Office; Diaz, Olgy; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah  
**Cc:** City Manager; Franco, Joseph; Blocker, Keith; Bushnell, Joe; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Ushka, Catherine  
**Subject:** Study Session regarding Partial Encampment Ban

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

I fully encourage the City Manager and City Council to implement this ordinance to ban unauthorized encampments near homeless shelters throughout the City. This is a good start to implementing a full ban on the crime infested drug encampments entrenched across the city. It's also a good first step to getting the people living in the encampments who would accept services the care and rehabilitation they need and out from under the violent criminals running the encampments.

I applaud the three Council Members who had the courage to finally try and adopt some policy change to address this out of control, citywide crisis. Your peers who are indifferent to the matter and have made it clear by their inaction and unwillingness to address this issue head-on that they approve and encourage rampant addiction and crime throughout our city should follow your lead.

Regards,

Michael J Johnson  
Tacoma WA 98409  
253-473-4660

**From:** chrisvkimball <chrisvkimball@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:36 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Homeless encampments

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

Hello, my name is Chris Kimball and I want to express my views on the proposed ordinance which would facilitate clearing out homeless camps. I am board president of Network Tacoma. We actually have an 80% success rate in helping homeless families with children get back into society. Therefore, I have had some experience with the homeless issue. I endorse the proposal, and also think that there needs to be more facilities to help the mentally ill and drug addicted. Until we do that, homelessness will persist. Sincerely, Chris Kimball

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** Jake Nyman <jakenyman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 10:20 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support an expanded camping ban

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

As a business owner and property owner, I support an expanded camping ban in Tacoma.

- A Department of Justice report concluded that evidence shows that unsanctioned encampments lead to “higher levels of petty and serious crime” for “areas adjacent” to them including “drug dealing and usage, disturbance, theft, prowling, burglary, panhandling, fighting, vandalism, armed robbery, rape and aggravated assault”,
- Those living in encampments are “a vulnerable population” and the “unsanctioned encampments are “not safe locations to live”,
- Unsanctioned encampments lead to a high volume of 911 and 311 calls; which calls are reduced when the unsanctioned encampments are removed.
- And, despite the fact that our shelters are safer places to live and the fact that City staff work tirelessly on a daily basis offering shelter and services to those in the encampments, only 18% accept help.

Our policies as a city must begin to address crime associated with unsanctioned encampments citywide - both for those living in them and for the rest of the community. No one should be subjected to the crimes going on inside the encampments.

Jake

**From:** Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 11, 2022 8:15 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comments for the City Council study session on Tuesday Sept 13 regarding the Camping Ordinance  
**Attachments:** TBC Statement about the 10 block buffer ordinance (1).pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please find attached comments for Tuesday the 13th Study Session from the Tacoma Business Council on the proposed Camping Ordinance.



*Safety Is Our Business!*  
Tacoma Business Council  
[tacomabusinesscouncil.com](http://tacomabusinesscouncil.com)



Sep 11, 2022

The Tacoma Business Council learned of the proposed 10-block buffer ordinance late on Friday. TBC is dedicated to addressing the crime wave in Tacoma and want to support policies that begin to address the underlying sources of crime. We appreciate that Councilmembers Hines, Rumbaugh and Bushnell are attempting a first step in that direction. With this ordinance, they have acknowledged a plain truth, that unsanctioned encampments are unsafe for both the vulnerable homeless population living in them and those living or working nearby.

In the City Council Action Memorandum put out on September 7th, they note the following:

- A Department of Justice report concluded that evidence shows that unsanctioned encampments lead to “higher levels of petty and serious crime” for “areas adjacent” to them including “drug dealing and usage, disturbance, theft, prowling, burglary, panhandling, fighting, vandalism, armed robbery, rape and aggravated assault”,
- Those living in encampments are “a vulnerable population” and the “unsanctioned encampments are “not safe locations to live”,
- Unsanctioned encampments lead to a high volume of 911 and 311 calls; which calls are reduced when the unsanctioned encampments are removed.
- And, despite the fact that our shelters are safer places to live and the fact that City staff work tirelessly on a daily basis offering shelter and services to those in the encampments, only 18% accept help.

Our policies as a city must begin to address crime associated with unsanctioned encampments citywide - both for those living in them and for the rest of the community. No one should be subjected to the crimes going on inside the encampments or to the increased crime that flows from them. Unfortunately, this ordinance would protect only nine locations - it doesn't address our schools, our parks, or any other location citywide. Councilmember Hines, Rumbaugh and Bushnell state that they view this ordinance as a starting point. TBC agrees it is a starting point; but it can be better. We can do better. TBC stands ready and willing to work with them and any one else in the City ready to take action to protect the unhoused living in encampments as well as the rest of the citizens living and working nearby throughout our wonderful city. Because this ordinance would only address nine specific locations, at this time TBC cannot fully endorse it in its current draft form. We would like, however, to be part of a continued conversation with the city about adopting a more comprehensive approach to this truly important issue.

**From:** porietisp@harbornet.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 4, 2022 10:51 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** porietisp@harbornet.com; 'ANGELIA PORIETIS'  
**Subject:** FW: 1512 Yakima  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0922.jpg; Untitled attachment 00004.txt

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

Hi can you present the attached picture to City Council and ask how I can remove the homeless tents from my property at 1512 Yakima, Thank you, Pete Porietis

-----Original Message-----

From: porietisp@harbornet.com <porietisp@harbornet.com>  
Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2022 10:44 AM  
To: 'Griffith, Allyson' <AGriffith@cityoftacoma.org>  
Cc: porietisp@harbornet.com  
Subject: FW: 1512 Yakima

Hi Allyson, hope that you have a good holiday weekend.  
Can you give me some ideas on how I can remove the homeless tents from my property at 1512 Yakima?  
Thank you,  
Pete

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete Porietis <porietisp@harbornet.com>  
Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2022 8:26 AM  
To: Peter Porietis <porietisp@harbornet.com>  
Cc: Angelia Porietis <angie@alpineiv.com>  
Subject: 1512 Yakima

Tents on my property at 1512 Yakima





Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Daisha Gomillion <daishangomillion@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 26, 2022 8:37 AM  
**To:** City Manager  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Fwd: McKinley Hill Friends Church  
**Attachments:** Video.mov; Video\_1.mov; Video\_2.mov; Video\_3.mov

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

Daisha N Gomillion, MBA

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Daisha Gomillion <daishangomillion@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 26, 2022 at 8:31:00 AM PDT  
**To:** jBushnell2@cityoftacoma.org  
**Subject:** **McKinley Hill Friends Church.**

Good morning CM Bushnell,

Just wanted to make you aware that our neighborhood is still having issues with the transient population that occupy the McKinley Hills Friends Church (259 East 72nd street) this morning at 7:50am, I witnessed smoke coming from the church (see videos). I immediately called 911, a fire truck was sent to the church and there was a transient who lit a charcoal grill on the church property. There tons of brush and tree in that area and could have set the neighborhood on fire due to the heat dry brush and trees in the area. This was very scary for our neighborhood. The neighborhood is aware that there is a no trespassing order for the church but it is not being enforced. Something needs to happen with that location, it is affecting the neighborhoods quality of life. Also there are tons of trees that have been cut down due to construction so much could have caught on fire.

What can be done about this area?

Thanks,

Daisha N Gomillion, MBA

**From:** Gomillion, Daisha (DSHS/ESA/CSD) <daisha.gomillion@dshs.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 10:01 AM  
**To:** Bushnell, Joe; marty.campbell@piercecounitywa.gov; City Manager; City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria  
**Subject:** Tacoma's deadliest street is spiraling out of control. How did it become a 'war zone'?  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello all,

I read the article below that ran in the News Tribune this morning and this is so sad but extremely accurate. I live in District 5, Hosmer street and surrounding areas are a war zone.

[Tacoma's deadliest street is spiraling out of control. How did it become a War Zone?](#)

I am so glad the article addressed the historical and current inequity in District 5 (based off the [Tacoma equity index map](#)). It's a warzone out there, not just for the businesses on Hosmer, but any area that is in walking distance of Hosmer (which includes residential neighborhoods). My neighbors and I pay taxes, just the same as everybody else and they were recently increased by \$200 per month. We want a safe neighborhood; we want a clean neighborhood.

We've got to feel safe in our neighborhood and our neighborhood has to be clean. With inflation property theft is no longer a victimless crime, many families have to choose between replacing the catalytic converter that was stolen from their vehicle or putting groceries on the table.

The lawlessness is becoming unbearable, I see so many of my neighbors leaving Tacoma putting up for sale signs. But who can blame them when the City of Tacoma raises property taxes but does nothing to protect the communities that pay the property taxes.

It's horrible to live this way, and many don't have a choice. I hope you all listen to what the community and businesses are stating in this article, it's very accurate.

Best,

*Daisha N. Gomillion*, MBA (she/her)

253.245.0813 (cell)

(Email) [Daisha.Gomillion@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Daisha.Gomillion@dshs.wa.gov)

*Transforming Lives*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE** This transmission may contain confidential information which may be legally privileged. If you are **NOT** the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this message.

**From:** Dixon, Kevin (DOR) <KevinD@DOR.WA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 7, 2022 5:44 AM  
**Cc:** Gamboa, Perla (DOR)  
**Subject:** Introduction - Working Families Tax Credit

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

Good morning City Officials,

By way of introduction, I am Kevin Dixon, the Assistant Director of the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) division with the Washington Department of Revenue. Copied on this email is Perla Gamboa, who is the Outreach & Community Partnerships Manager for the WFTC division. We are eager to reach out to the local jurisdictions around Washington to promote the new WFTC program.

The WFTC program was passed in 2021 and goes live in 2023. The program provides up to a \$1,200 refund to eligible low-to-moderate income working individuals and families in Washington. Eligibility requirements include, among others, eligibility to claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and residency in the state. Unlike the federal EITC program, individuals with a valid ITIN are also eligible to apply. We anticipate around 400,000 individuals will be eligible for the credit.

My team is preparing for program implementation for next year. A huge part of our effort is the communication and outreach to local governments, stakeholders, partners, and community-based organizations around the state to drive awareness and promote the program so eligible individuals know to apply for the credit. The IRS estimates about 21% of eligible filers for the federal EITC do not claim the credit. This is much-needed cash and assistance that these folks are potentially leaving on the table. It is imperative that we do all we can to get the word out about EITC and WFTC so individuals can claim the credits they are entitled to. These tax credits paid to Washington residents will be reinvested within your communities.

To date, the WFTC outreach team has done the following:

- Hired a marketing vendor to launch a robust media campaign to promote WFTC through tv, billboard, digital, and social media channels.
- Launched a new website at [WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov](https://WorkingFamiliesCredit.wa.gov) that includes important information about the program, an eligibility checker, a partner toolkit with materials and resources, and an opportunity to sign up for key notifications about the program.
- Conducted speaking engagements and attended various events around the state to introduce the program and drive awareness.
- Partnered with the Department of Commerce to award \$10 million in community outreach grants to organizations to promote the WFTC program and provide application assistance.

Perla and I welcome the opportunity to meet with your city officials to share more about the WFTC program and strategize on how we may partner with you to promote WFTC to your residents and communities. We would be happy to attend a council meeting or provide materials that you may include in your city publications, newsletters, or website.

I look forward to hearing back.

Best,  
Kevin

***Kevin Dixon***

Assistant Director | Working Families Tax Credit Division  
(360) 763-7110 | [Kevind@dor.wa.gov](mailto:Kevind@dor.wa.gov)  
Washington State Department of Revenue | [dor.wa.gov](https://dor.wa.gov)