

From: J Corso <jcorso695@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:19 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fwd: City Budget: Prioritize public safety

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Begin forwarded message:

From: J Corso <jcorso695@gmail.com>
Date: September 14, 2022 at 11:16:00 PM PDT
To: srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org
Cc: cityclerk@cityoftaxoma.org
Subject: **City Budget: Prioritize public safety**

Dear City Council-member Rumbaugh,

Thank you for your service to the city.

It's my understanding that the City Manager (CM) is preparing to present City Council with a draft budget for 2023 - 2024.

I also understand the CM is expecting less revenue, perhaps a \$24 million deficit, and the CM must balance the budget.

Finally, I understand the CM is proposing to balance the budget in part by cutting funding for public safety.

Given our high crime rate, I oppose cutting the public safety budget. The city has under-funded the Tacoma Police Department for years, the department is severely understaffed, and crime is out of control.

Please advise the CM to make public safety a priority and fully-fund the TPD.

Sincerely,
Geoff Corso
701 N J St.
Tacoma

Sent from my iPhone

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 7:51 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina
Subject: Groundwater video - Study Session STGPD Moratorium

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Public comments re: Study Session STGPD Moratorium

Mayor and City Council,

Information for why we need to be proactive and fiercely protect our city's precious groundwater aquifer:

Water shortage and groundwater impacts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtxew5XUVbQ&t=591s>

[Water: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
\(HBO\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtxew5XUVbQ&t=591s)

John Oliver discusses the water shortage in the American west, how it's already impacting the people who live there, and what God has to say about it. Connec...

www.youtube.com

These groundwater sources are not endless water supplies, especially if prevented from natural infiltration/recharge and are overused (in Tacoma by additional development, increased population and two water bottling companies seeking to increase their production).

Please take a few minutes to watch this video, and apply its message toward creating the strongest moratorium possible until our groundwater code is properly updated ~ thanks!

HeidiGS@hotmail.com

From: Kim Bardwil <bardwil33@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 2:54 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: City Council Forum

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Dear Mayor Woodards and Council Members, I fully support funding our police to deter crime and give them the ability to respond to the 5% of the majority of repeat offenders that continue to commit crimes in our city—clearly, those repeat offenders believe nothing will be done. We need to feel safe in our own community! To raise our children, work, own businesses and return our city to what it once was!

I also support giving the camping ordinance a try! Clearly, what's happening now isn't working. No one should be living on the streets the way they are now and this will at least be a step in the right direction for offering services and shelter. It appears that those that oppose the ordinance don't offer any other alternatives.

Please, listen to what your tax paying citizens of the city of Tacoma are asking of you. Fund our police, make Tacoma safer and less crime ridden and get the homeless off the streets...

Sincerely,
Kim Bardwil

From: Julie and Jay TURNER <juliejayturner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:52 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding of Police and Fire Departments

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Dear Council Members,

Since it is budgeting time for next year, I would like to ask you to vote for full funding for the Police Dept. and the Fire Dept. These departments are a very important part of what the city does for all of us who live here, and we need more of everything in both departments right now. Please serve all of us faithfully by putting these departments first in your thinking - safety for Tacoma's citizens.

Thank you for serving Tacoma's citizens.

Julie Turner
817 North J St.
Tacoma, 98403
253-383-2329

From: Phil Harty <philhartymusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 3:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Crisis Response Team and No camping ban

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Hello, my name is Phil Harty and I live in the Stadium district in Tacoma. I'm writing in support of the community-driven campaign to create a fully-funded mental health crisis response team in Tacoma. The time for transformation is now. The city has made many commitments to antiracism and addressing deep inequities in social services and policing including action strategies, heal the heart, and the Community Police Advisory Commission. An alternative response team can provide people experiencing a mental health crisis with actual help, not arrest or violence. During 2020's racial justice protests every council member at the time expressed support for alternative crisis response models. We need that support in the 2023-24 budget. Fully funding a city-staffed alternative crisis response team through this office and not the police department would be a good start to enhancing actual community safety. Police aren't trained, or equipped to handle mental health crises. People experiencing a mental crisis may need mental health care, medication, housing resources, or simply some compassion. Being abused or arrested doesn't help their crisis, but makes it worse. An alternative crisis response team is a step towards reducing and even eliminating the oppressive and abusive role of police in our community. An alternative crisis response team would help offer human dignity and vital resources to rehabilitate those suffering from a mental health crisis instead of criminalizing it. Likewise I'm calling for a no camping ban because I believe housing is a human right and homelessness shouldn't be criminalized either.

From: Undeniable Bajinya <undeniablebajinya@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Diaz, Olgy; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe
Cc: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Tacoma businesses, Tacoma Police Department, Crime and the Homeless in Tacoma
Attachments: IMG_7214.mov

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In January of 2022 I moved my business from Lakewood to the Hill Top, at 1105 S 10th S, renting space from the long established Johnson Candy Company. My pastor actually referred me to the space and with his referral and the understanding that Tacoma was focusing on a revival of the Hill Top neighborhood, I moved in. I felt blessed and excited to be there. I remodeled the interior of my space at a personal cost of about \$15,000. The place is beautiful and showcases the handmade garments and accessories I specialize in.

Unfortunately, the outside of the shop is not as beautiful. When I first moved in there were tent encampments on my block and down the street. Tacoma relocated the tents shortly after I moved in but there are still people hanging out on my block. They seem to like my storefront. They set up a barbecue grill in the alcove to my front door. They sleep, pee and poop all along the store front. They scream at me and pound on my windows sometimes to come in and use the bathroom, sometimes just because. My customers are frightened and put off by this activity. It makes me cry. Something happens everyday.

A few weeks after I moved in, my shop windows were smashed in by a homeless woman (and probably friends). They stole in excess of \$50,000 of sewing equipment, my film equipment, my imported African fabric and most devastating, one of a kind sample garments for display and garments made for and already paid for by customers. The woman who broke in was arrested the morning after it happened. We knew she was the thief because she approached the investigating police officer wearing one of my custom made coats to apologize for the break in. She eventually was released back onto the streets. I know because she returned to my shop to bang on the window and threaten me. None of the goods have been recovered.

I was broken into again at my storage unit near Tacoma Community College a few weeks ago. It is a secure facility. My unit was the only one broken into. The police told me to be careful because people may be following me from the area around my shop. Goods stolen were the same as kind the first time and exceed \$75,000 in value. They took three new sewing machines. My insurance company will drop me after this break-in.

I have a five month old baby girl and a three year old boy. I take the infant with me to the shop everyday because daycare is too expensive. I take the three year old too when his daycare is closed and I have no other help available. I am terrified to walk from my car to the shop with them.

Sine February, I have lost at least 15 customers who would not get out of their cars because of the people on the street and possibly selling drug out of a car across the street. Each customer would have spent at least \$500. I also have at least 10 who came once and will not come back. Several of them were regular customers who averaged \$1000 per month in purchases.

Two Sundays ago I went to the shop with the three year old to meet a customer who wanted a wedding dress. She was coming from Seattle. I am attaching a video of what I found. People were lined up along my entire store front. They had carpets and chairs and flowers and blankets and stuff up at my door. I approached and said this is my shop, you have to move. One of them replied that it was Sunday and I was closed so I should not be there. They eventually moved but I started filming and they came after me. I had to stop filming and lock my self in the car with my son. They pounded on our windows. Screamed at my son while banging on his window. Two of them lifted their shirts to show guns and ask me if we wanted to get hurt.

I do not want to leave but I need the protection of a fully staffed police department. The police who have been able to help me have been wonderful.

I FULLY SUPPORT THE FULL FUNDING OF THE POLICE. I ALSO FULLY RESPECT THEIR ROLE IN A CIVIL SOCIETY AND REQUEST THAT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DO THE SAME. I SUPORT THE CAMPING ORDINANCE AS A FIRST STEP TO CONTROLLING THE RAVAGES TO

THE CITY CAUSED BY HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS.

I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo which is a dangerous lawless land. I came here and became a citizen because an American citizen has the right to lawfully pursue their dreams. But an American citizen also has the right to expect their government to act responsibly toward all of its citizens. Homelessness itself is not a crime but neither is being a business owner.

I humbly request that you step up to your collective responsibilities to the citizens of Tacoma, no matter who they are and the businesses whose taxes fund your salaries. Support the police by your actions and your words.