

From: Webb PERMA <Webb.Perma@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 3:50 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: No to increasing business licensing fees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the City Clerk & Council;

No to increasing business licensing fees.

There is no indication that services will improve for businesses. At this time, police are not responding to our calls, the prosecutors are not sending criminals to the courts (instead releasing them to commit more crimes against us) and the courts are not convicting/depriving criminals of the opportunity to commit more crimes.

This proposed tax/license fee increase will be sending a clear message to Tacoma businesses that the City of Tacoma is not interested in their presence. Instead, it appears that our hard earned money will be used to support and serve the very people who are committing crimes against businesses.

Until the City can responsibly spend the money it receives, then I and all the people I know in Tacoma say NO to the proposed license fee increases.

Thank you,

Webb Bowie
Perma, LLC
1610 Center Street, Tacoma

From: Monica Busch <mbusch@summitvets.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:02 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Camping, garbage and prostitution

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It has been an absolutely amazing change since the clean up of S 80th between Tacoma Mall Blvd and Pine St in Tacoma/Lakewood. The clients are calmer and feel safe. The staff is relieved and the whole atmosphere had changed inside and out! A legally blind client was even comfortable walking around the retention pond as she waited for her pet to be treated.

Unfortunately the campers are back! The garbage is shoved up against the fence by the retention pond the campers have lined the street, the cars are parked every direction and obvious prostitution solicitations to car windows and/or drug deals.

Can this be stopped before it multiplies more!

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Monica

From: Shannon Haven <shanaynayhaven@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:58 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Homeless on S. 80th St

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Dear To whom it may concern,

I had written a note before about this problem. When I got to work today it still looked like a mess. There are still RVs parked out on the road and trash along the road. It has been hard to get around them just to leave and to come to work. The homeless stand in the middle of the road and won't move. Our clients when they come to our facility are really scared to even get out of their car to take their pet to pee. Also we are having the homeless come to our work and take our trash out of the garbage cans. We would just like to have our clients feel safe when they are bringing their pets to our facility and to feel safe to walk to our cars without getting bombarded with the homeless asking for cash or cigarettes. Thank you
Shannon

From: Mark Andrews <mark@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 1:43 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Business License Fees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Tacoma needs to be proactive in keeping businesses vs making them feel not welcome.

Tacoma already has one of the highest B and O taxes coupled to the State that it's already discouraging more businesses from opening shop.

Why would you even think about raising taxes. The Business conscious cities around the US are lowering taxes to attract businesses.

Stop poor spending habits, and try to add more businesses, your tax base will grow

Sincerely,



Mark Andrews
President
800-474-0711
F: 253-474-0714
mark@addisonsupply.com

Addison Construction Supply, Inc.
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From: Dan Bradley <nyland@creativecastingco.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 12:38 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: License increase

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As business continue to struggle with all the cost increases . I oppose these increase on all business owners. It will cause items to continue to increase in price as these new increases will have to be pushed on to the consumer who is already dealing with hardship.

Dan

From: Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 12:04 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comments for City Council on Ordinance 28838 and Substitute Ordinance 28838
Attachments: TBC Statement on the Proposed Increased Business License Fees.pdf

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Honorable Mayor Woodards, Distinguished Councilmembers, and City Clerk,

Please find attached our letter regarding the proposed business license fee increases. We submit this for the record on these ordinances.



Safety Is Our Business!
Tacoma Business Council
tacomabusinesscouncil.com



Oct 24, 2022

Honorable Mayor Woodards and Distinguished Councilmembers,

The Tacoma Business Council is writing to share our concerns on the proposed increases in business license fees in Ordinance 28838 and Substitute Ordinance 28838. As currently written, neither ordinance is one we can support.

It is troubling to us that the City seeks to increase fees on business at a time when businesses are seeing reduced services and feel that our real concerns about property crime are going largely unaddressed. If fees must be increased at this time, we believe those fees should be directly invested in programs to address the largest issues plaguing businesses-crime and macroeconomic instability.

With regard to crime, we are all aware that the Tacoma Police Department is in triage mode due to their terribly low staffing levels. Despite the City's efforts, such as the lateral hiring bonus, which TBC applauds and supports, TPD's staffing problems will not be solved anytime soon. However, there are tools that the City could invest in that would enable TPD to do more with less. Technologies exist, like gun fire detection systems, that would help our police force be more effective in addressing violent crime. Investing in those technologies would have a dual benefit: it would help solve the murders we are suffering as a City and would free up police officers to begin focusing on property crime. All Tacomans, not just businesses, would benefit from that investment of the business community's money. Further, that approach would be more equitable to the business community. We want to partner with the City, not simply be required to fund the City's budget.

To be clear, TBC would support a reasonable license fee increase only so long as the funds used to buy technology were in addition and supplemental to TPD's existing budget request.

With regard to macroeconomic issues, businesses are suffering from over 8% inflation and working under the cloud of a pending recession. In this atmosphere, large fee increases appear to be more "piling on" by the City. We must point out that the size of the proposed increases in either ordinance far outweigh inflation. As such, inflation cannot be pointed to by the City as a justification for the size of the increases sought by these ordinances.

TBC wants to further address the substitute ordinance put forth by Councilmembers Blocker, Walker and Diaz. With the Substitute Ordinance, the Councilmembers would impose staggering fee increases. Blocker, Walker and Diaz seek a 127% increase in fees on small businesses that generate revenue between \$12,000 and \$250,000, a 128% fee increase for businesses between \$250,000 and \$1 million, a 700% increase for those between \$1M and \$5 M, and a 900% increase for those with revenue over \$5M. That is egregious and cannot be supported under any circumstances.

No member of the current council has experience owning a business and collectively you have very limited experience working in the private sector. As a result the Council may not be equipped to fully understand the challenges facing businesses. As a city we all benefit from a vibrant business community. Let's slow down the legislative process on this fee increase. Let's ensure that the increases are reasonable, that they invest in the community by being used to purchase technologies that enable TPD to be more efficient, and that the Ordinance includes language ensuring that these things happen. Let's work together to invest in the community-it will pay enormous dividends to all Tacomans if we do.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen B. Wynne
President
Tacoma Business Council
info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com

From: Andrea Reay <andrear@tacomachamber.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Walker, Kristina; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Pauli, Elizabeth; Ushka, Catherine; olgy.diaz@cityoftacoma.org; Diaz, Olgy
Cc: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Business License Fee Proposal
Attachments: Tacoma City Council Letter RE Budget Proposal.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Honorable Mayor Woodards and Distinguished Councilmembers,

Attached please find our letter regarding the proposed business license fee increases. As always, we appreciate our open dialogue and look forward to continued conversations and creative solution finding.

Best,
Andrea

Andrea H. Reay

President & CEO, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber

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

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TACOMA - PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER



10/20/2022

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

RE: Budget Proposal

Honorable Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council Members,

The Chamber wants to extend our sincere appreciation to the city staff and leadership for reaching out to our organization to discuss and review the proposal to increase the business license fees. We know the best way to create exceptional policy is to be inclusive and ensure all voices of impacted parties are part of the conversation when crafting policy. The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber has strived to advocate for all businesses through leadership, advocacy, and building strong relationships. This includes partnering with other organizations and companies to offer new ways to support small business growth. We know we are stronger together and together is the only way we will really create economic equity and build generational wealth, with and for our community.

Unfortunately, our small businesses, particularly those owned by women and people of color, are now facing increased expenses as they recover from the pandemic. Those increased expenses include inflationary costs, workforce and labor cost increases, operational and facility costs due to crime and vandalism and now tax and fee increases proposed by the City of Tacoma.

The Chamber therefore would like to express our opposition to the proposal to increase business license fees as currently crafted. We understand the budget constraints the city is facing and are sympathetic to those constraints as all families and businesses in our region are facing the same constraints. As you evaluate modifications to the proposal, please consider the following suggestions:

- 1) Stair-Step Model. We encourage the city to consider a stair stepped approach to implementing the fee increases or pause for the next year. This will help guard against any budgetary concerns businesses may be facing.
- 2) Predictable Increases. A graduated business license fee increase model would help guard against inflationary concerns by planning for annual increases connected directly to the CPI that can be budgeted and predictable. It also helps guard against the large inflationary corrections that come with adjustments that only happen every 5-7 years.
- 3) Direct Investment in Economic Development and Public Safety. Investments made from the business community should help support the business community. Investments in technological tools such as a gun fire detection system, cameras, lighting, positive activation of public spaces through programming and events or assistance with crime prevention through environmental design are all examples of tools that have been used in communities, including ours with success, but do require investment of both capital and resources to implement. Other programs such as the window replacement program or other capital access grants and loans, all go a long way to help not only the business community, but our wider community, be more successful and engaged. Often a small loan of under \$10,000 can make a huge difference in enabling a business to thrive instead of just survive.



As businesses are still struggling with the impacts of the pandemic and face future economic uncertainty, knowing that any investment increase they contribute could be used for programs and/or initiatives that could both help their business or support our diverse economic ecosystem would be a positive step in continuing to build a more vibrant, strong and diverse local economy.

We need a robust, diverse and thriving business community to capitalize on our equitable economic development and workforce strategies and initiatives and need to do all we can to guard against displacement by keeping the costs of doing business low and competitive in our city.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can help provide more context or be a resource. Again, we are grateful for our partnership and look forward to continuing to work in strong collaboration to benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea H. Reay".

Andrea H. Reay
President and CEO
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
AndreaR@TacomaChamber.org
(253) 682-1736

From: Kurando Honjo <khonjo@summitvets.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 8:19 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: S 80th St. homeless crisis.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

My name is Kurando Honjo. I am a veterinarian working at Summit Veterinary Referral Center on 80th St. Ever since I've started there a year ago it was no news that the neighborhood, particularly that street, has been very unstable. Cars have caught on fire, gunshots are heard all the time, occupants of what is an encampment with knives and/or guns are seen brandishing them during conflicts among themselves. Just the other day one of our staff witnessed some folks running away and taking cover from gun fire. We have tried many times to contact police but no progress has been made. Occasionally the occupants of the street decrease in number but they come right back. Even if our staff witness a person with a weapon in front of our hospital, we have gotten responses such as if the witness is no longer there no one will come out to check on anything.

I am concerned about everyone involved. Our staff who feel fear going to and from their cars or even more so while they are serving the clients and animals we are all trying to help in our parking lot. A stray bullet at the very least is always a concern if not some sort of altercation or other unintended and unpleasant/uncomfortable interaction would always be on our minds. This is even worse for our night staff as we are a 24/7 facility.

I know its not these folks' fault necessarily that they cannot find better means of living. Costs of living skyrocket as wages stagger. Thats hard on everyone, especially for those without opportunity whatever circumstances they may face. I know or at least hope that someone with the capability - the authority and power with the willingness to work hard to approach these issues - as it cannot be an easy one by any means - is out there trying to find a solution to our collective problem to keep everyone involved safe, and housed. I feel as a community it is important to come together to take care of each other, and hope that there are policies in the works as a top priority to solve this crisis so Tacoma can evolve and thrive. Helping those in need has to be easier than constantly worrying about harm to others/themselves, watching as the problem gets worse and worse, and spending funds that can be directed toward figuring out housing and/or treatments for these folks than when dangerous situations result in incarceration, property damage, and at worst death.

We all hope something can be done.

Sincerely,

Kurando Honjo

From: Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:58 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Real, Chantra; Woodards, Victoria; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Campbell, Haley; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; Hines, John; City Manager; Griffith, Allyson; Heidi S.; Ushka, Catherine; Goodwin, Claire; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin; Mike Givens; Sophia McKee; John F. Pugh; Joelle Siebert; Grace Yarber; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland; allison b; Maureen Fife; Adam Gehrke; ed; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III; Mark Andrews; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com; Chris Hamilton; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com); BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian; Faaluaina Pritchard; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete; Matt Theinert; Josh Harris
Subject: Home in Tacoma for All
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PwDUdBPS4yffjOO3zMtkUB6w53IcLOZa61U5WxzupQE/edit?fbclid=IwAR1gYkmBXuAInAIaTu9nuo-TyX-Lqjj5EJ92-b7EL1bMO1zBERgVbi7mP8k>

This level of vitriol and defamation is completely uncalled for. These activist groups do not care about the people living in squalor and blight while battling the demons of addiction and mental illness. Many of whom are continuously victimized by the criminal elements running the drug encampments. We know for a fact that everything from human trafficking to chop shops to drug manufacturing and distribution is the norm in these camps. And they are driving the rampant crime and violence plaguing our communities and costing our Small Business sector hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses. Not to mention the environmental damage these camps are causing which has been well documented. This has nothing to do with homelessness. This does not criminalize homelessness. This addresses a long overdue need to protect the people in the encampments and get them the help and services they need but may be unwilling or unable to accept. These activist groups know this. But these people are just fodder to them. A means to an end.

The council members who supported and passed this ban should be commended for their courage to do so. Those who rejected it and are beholden to the activists corruptly using this issue to push a hard left socialist agenda without thought or care for the collateral damage afflicted on the encampment residents and our Community as a whole should be ashamed of themselves.

And if I was Angela Connelly, I would sue them into oblivion for this vicious and uncalled for and completely unfounded personal attack.

Michael J Johnson
South Tacoma Business District
Board of Directors