To: City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Letter to go into the record

Attachments: Document (2).docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Hello! Please be sure this letter is sent to our Mayor and all city Council members. It is in regard to the letter written by Mary Robnett and numerous mayors.

Thank you! Janeen Provazek

Get Outlook for iOS

Dear Mayor Woodards and all Tacoma City Council Members.

I am responding to the letter written by Mary Robnett and signed by numerous Mayors. First, I would like to offer some facts, then I will responding directly to issues raised in the letter. I am so pleased that you all have not yet signed this panic-driven letter. I imagine there is a lot of pressure to do so.

# Important facts:

There are over 2 million people in our nation's prisons and jails—A 500% increase over the last 40 years. Changes in sentencing law and policy, **not changes in crime rates**, explains most of this increase. This has created an incredible fiscal burden on states, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not an effective means of achieving public safety. We have created a massive, overcrowded incarceration "world" and, still, we have public safety challenges.

For perspective, not only does the U.S. have the highest incarceration rate in the world; every single U.S. state incarcerates more people per capita than virtually any independent democracy on earth. We have a history of responding to crime by imprisoning more and more people, pulling the felony card whenever possible, and meting out longer and longer sentences. Of course, people of color are targeted the most.

Street crime costs our country approximately 16 billion dollars/year. White collar crime costs us **25 times that**—approximately 400 billion dollars per year. Maybe redirect our law enforcement to that group of criminals...

I am struck by how much anxiety underlies this letter. Thoughtful decisions are rarely made when fear is the motivator. For example, suggesting that we again allow Law Enforcement Pursuits. My goodness, what a reckless idea. Pursuits can easily become a public safety issue. Too many people have been shot in the back being

pursued by police. Too many bystanders injured by vehicle pursuits. This is not what our police should be doing.

Another example is the suggestion to make drug possession a felony again, without proof of intent to distribute. Really? The reasoning given is that allegedly law enforcement is "prohibited" from booking a suspect in jail, even when drug possession is a misdemeanor. **That simply is not true.** Right In this letter it says that a suspect can be booked and prosecuted after a suspect has been previously detained twice and referred to social services. Makes sense. The third time this suspect is picked up he/she can be booked and prosecuted. However, according to this letter this doesn't happen because "there is no statewide system for tracking these referrals". Well, for goodness sake fix that! Ms. Robnett would rather criminalize simple drug possession than fix a system issue? Not acceptable.

Clearly, we do not need to make drug possession a felony or reinstate police pursuits to book and prosecute drug offenders. I do agree that coerced substance abuse treatment can be effective and a viable option for repeat offenders. Pierce County has had success with therapeutic courts.

The last thing we need is to act on the current level of anxiety and go backwards in our policing efforts, hunting down suspected criminals and slapping them with a felony. We all know the devastation a felony charge creates for a suspect and his/her family. Sort of reminds me of President Bush's rush to start a war in Iraq in response to 911. We know how well that worked out!

I implore our Mayor and City Council to not be tempted to go for the scare-driven suggestions. We are better than that, and more creative.

Respectfully submitted, Janeen Provazek From: DIANE BLOUNT <dblount6@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 4:47 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Prosecutor's Letter/Concerned Citizen

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

I'm a resident who resides on the Eastside of Tacoma.

Our crime is totally out of control. There is an urgency to allow our Police Officers to pursuit criminals.

Drug possession should become a felony.

I have witness unsheltered people taking over our neighborhoods committing crimes with no consequences.

Our city is at its worst.

Please sign our Prosecutor's Letter.

Make that change.

Diane

From: Kirsten Carlson <kcarlson3416@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 8:10 AM

To: City Clerk's Office Subject: Drug Possession

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

## Council member Rumbaugh,

As a constituent who supported you in your election, I am disgusted that you continue to embrace false narratives and policies that are destroying our once beautiful city. It is unbelievable to me that you are naive enough to believe that you can lever an addict into treatment without the threat of jail time. Stop treating drug use like cancer; it is not. People with cancer and other health issues do not present a hazard to the public at large and do not steal to support their "health problem." More drugs means more addicts, more crime and more overdose deaths. It's that simple. Look at the data on crime and overdose deaths since the Blake decision effectively decriminalized drugs in Washington State. I'm sure if you talk to the police chief and the prosecutor, they will tell you that most of the crime we are experiencing, including violent crime, is linked in some way to drugs. Do you think the recent spate of shootings in our city has anything to do with drugs?

How did we get to a place where we expect so little of people? I implore you to stop preening and start representing ALL of your constituents including those of us who believe in personal responsibility and a social compact as necessary elements of a civilized society.

I am reminded of the phrase, "You broke it, you own it." This applies to politicians who refuse to enact and enforce policies for the good of the community. Every shooting, overdose death and physical blight linked to drugs is on you.

Kirsten Carlson

From: Keith B <Keithb517@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:48 PM

To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Plea of Help for Tacoma

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

As a resident of Puyallup, my hometown is Tacoma, born and raised, 1947. Nowadays, I find driving into Tacoma shocking due to homeless, mentally handicapped, violence reports, etc. Again, please sign the prosecutor's letter. Help fight against the tyranny of injustice, our current laws and enforcement are allowing.

# PLEASE RECRIMINALIZE DRUG POSSESSION

- 1. Please sign the Prosecutor's letter and make this your top priority by directing Tacoma's lobbyist to work with the legislature to make drug possession a felony again.
- 2. We must listen to our elected County Prosecutor on this issue. Her experience fighting crime every day makes her the most the most qualified to address this issue.
- 3. In fact, both the Prosecutor and Tacoma's City Attorney have stated that the legislatures changes to the law in 2021 have made prosecution of drug possession impossible as a practical matter.
- 4. As a direct result, drug dealing and drug intoxication are rampant. Overdoses are at shocking and tragic all time high. And property crimes have skyrocketed because users steal to support their habits.
- 5. Treatment is vital to restoring individuals to a healthier state, but treatment and prosecution can go hand in hand. In fact, treatment is often part of the criminal justice system.
- 6. Pierce County is a leader in successful therapeutic courts including the Felony Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and the drug Addiction Reduction Team. Those programs work and offer treatment, but by decriminalization, the Legislature had reduced the opportunities to obtain treatment and have reduced the intent to stay in treatment.
- 7. We must reverse this dangerous course immediately to get treatment for those in need and to address the skyrocketing crime rate.

Thank you, Keith Brown, Puyallup, WA

Jacoma Cy Council FETS was closed.

In the Revised 2018 Jacoma
JUG the law stated again The
the LUG according to federal
sito location can Not be mir harpords, is located in signefaction, ut of a PSE a Magard multipale. Sandslid

From: Judith Martin < judithkmartin@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:43 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: null

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

null

Sent from Mail for Windows
City council, Mayor, City Manager,

Please sign Prosecutors letter and make this your top priority by directing Tacoma's lobbyist to work with legislature to make Drug possession a felony again. Please do this so we don't wind up like Seattle with NO PLACE to stack the bodies. We need your help now!

Respectfully,

Judith Martin 515 North M St Tacoma, WA From: Megan Lum <veggiegirl68@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 4:15 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Cc: Rumbaugh, Sarah; Woodards, Victoria
Subject: Please sign the Prosecutor's letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Dear members of Tacoma City Council,

I urge you to sign the Prosecutor's letter to request making drug possession a felony again. Her expertise and experience fighting crime every day makes her a qualified authority on this issue, and we should believe her and support her.

Drug abuse is not a victimless crime. Since it was decriminalized, we've seen a huge increase in public drug dealing, overdoses and deaths, vandalism and violence by intoxicated people, theft to support the addicts' habits. We must get these folks into treatment for their own sake, and also for the rest of us. Our crime rate is out of control, and most of us are afraid. Please take action now.

- Megan

From: brian borgelt <br/>bborgelt@hotmail.com><br/>Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:54 AM

To: City Clerk's Office Subject: Prosecutor's letter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

As a business and property owner in Tacoma who has suffered enormous loss to the criminal elements, I strongly urge the mayor to sign the prosecutor's letter addressing this drug-fueled state of affairs.

Brian Borgelt

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device Get <u>Outlook for Android</u> From: Katherine Raz <katherine@thefernseed.com>

**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2023 10:39 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Drug decriminalization and prosection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

The Tacoma Business Council is active in attempting to influence business owners in our community to request that we ask the Mayor to consider signing the County Prosecutor's letter asking the state legislator to reverse the decision on decriminalizing drug possession.

I am sure you will hear from other business owners in Tacoma on this issue as influenced by the TBC, so I wanted to write in to offer a contrary voice. I am a business owner in Tacoma also, I own a shop with two locations in the city. While I understand crime is an issue, I do not support the idea that criminalizing drug possession is the only way to help vulnerable populations the treatment they need. Instead, I believe we should be focusing on supporting housing for people with addiction, medically assisted treatment options, and monitored injection sites.

I hope you understand that not all business owners in Tacoma are in support of the agenda of the Tacoma Business Council.

Katherine Raz, owner she/her The Fernseed, Tacoma thefernseed.com From: Beth Barker <BethB@JGKMW.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 10:34 AM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: RECRIMINALIZE DRUG POSSESSION

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to request that Mayor Woodwards sign Pierce County Prosecutor Mary Robnett's letter to the State to recriminalize drug possession as a step to make drug possession a felony again.

Thank you, Beth Barker

### **Disclaimer**

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From: Linda Miley <adnil@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 10:03 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Support the City Prosecutor & City Attorney Request for Changes in the Law on Crime

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

This is an urgent request that the Mayor of Tacoma and the City Council consider the deteriorating health and economy impacts of not addressing the key recommended solutions in changing the law by the City Prosecutor and City Attorney. It is about the consequences on quality of life for the residents of Tacoma and also the consequences to the future survival of the city. Who are you going to draw to live in Tacoma and who wants to visit a city known for its out of control crime. I moved away from Tacoma and a big part of that was the crime. I had hoped when I moved to Tacoma in 2010 that downtown Tacoma would be revitalized commercially and culturally and the reverse has happened. Now it is an unsafe wasteland and soon will have little to draw anyone to visit.

Linda Miley Gig Harbor Resident From: Sean Williams <sean.farmer@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 7:37 AM

To: City Clerk's Office Cc: Rumbaugh, Sarah

**Subject:** PLEASE RECRIMINALIZE DRUG POSSESSION

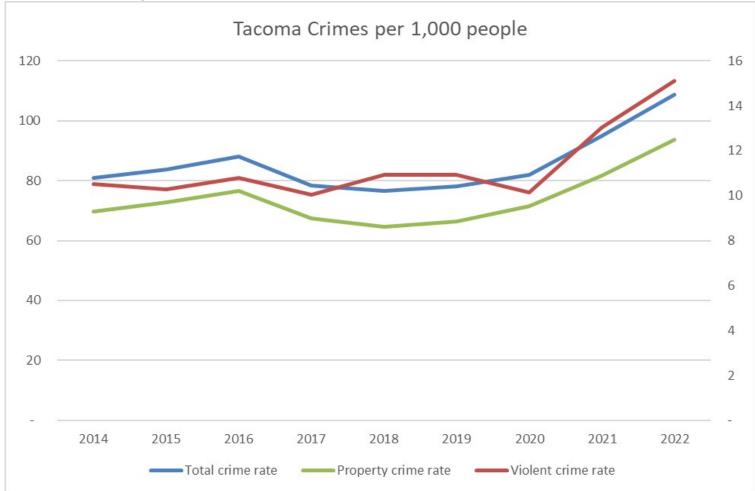
Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

I was sent the 7 point statement below and agree with it 100%.

In my family I have 3 recovered alcoholics. I love each of them and feel blessed every day that they are alive, sober, and not in prison. Each of them got to very dark places in their lives before they were ready and able to do the incredibly hard work of getting sober. Alcoholics Anonymous refers to this as hitting "rock bottom"; a place where the pain your addiction causes you is large enough to drive you to get sober. We thought drug decriminalization would help make the lives of people struggling with addiction easier, but I believe we have made it harder because we have ended up enabling their addictions. The pleading of family, friends, and government officials is not enough for many addicts, they also need the fear of facing jail or prison time. Every day they remain in addiction is a day they may die of an overdose, a day they are not really there for their loved ones, a day lost out of their lives. Please support our prosecutor, give her the tools she needs to help these people reclaim their lives!

If the plight of people with addiction does not persuade you, surely 2022's **50%** increase in violent crime rate and **30%** increase in property crime rate vs 2020 is enough reason to act?

I created this chart using Tacoma crime data:



Violent crime is on the 2nd (right side) y axis, property and total crime rates are on the left side Y axis.

Data sourced from at <a href="https://geohub.cityoftacoma.org/datasets/tacoma-crime-extract-ss911/explore?location=47.242872%2C-122.455500%2C13.00&showTable=true">https://geohub.cityoftacoma.org/datasets/tacoma-crime-extract-ss911/explore?location=47.242872%2C-122.455500%2C13.00&showTable=true</a>

- 1. Please sign the Prosecutor's letter and make this your top priority by directing Tacoma's lobbyist to work with the legislature to make drug possession a felony again.
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- 6. Pierce County is a leader in successful therapeutic courts including the Felony Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and the drug Addiction Reduction Team. Those programs work and offer treatment, but by decriminalization, the Legislature had reduced the opportunities to obtain treatment and have reduced the intent to stay in treatment.
- 7. We must reverse this dangerous course immediately to get treatment for those in need and to address the skyrocketing crime rate.

Sean Williams

From: Sorum, Doris (Legal)

Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:20 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** FW: Ground water protection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Community Forum?

Doris Sorum City Clerk 253-591-5361

dsorum@cityoftacoma.org

From: Dianna H <dihemmi44@gmail.com> Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:00 PM

**To:** Sorum, Doris (Legal) <DSORUM@cityoftacoma.org> **Cc:** Atkinson, Stephen <satkinson@cityoftacoma.org>

**Subject:** Ground water protection

Please put the moratorium permanently on the south Tacoma site. We must protect our natural resouces at all costs. There already has been disasterous mistakes ie. The 74th natural well, Ft Lewis pollution and storm run off into the bay, industrial pollution at the port and more.

We dont need to intentionally destroy more inviornments resourses by allowing the building over our known aquifers in So Tacoma. Shame on you if you do.

Thank you Concerned citizens of Tacoma Dianna n Ron Hemmi 229 So 54th Tacoma WA 98408 From: meegan anderson <meegananneanderson@icloud.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, January 15, 2023 3:22 PM

To: City Clerk's Office Subject: Help our town

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

I've lived in Washington state my entire life. Raised my children here and worked at the same company for over 24 years. I use to love to bring my family from out of state to see our beautiful town, now I'm embarrassed to even live here.

The streets are disgusting and the people living in tents, sidewalks are like walking zombies. I am so very sad seeing humans in this physical state of being, I am then angered seeing all the garbage, trash, and drugs that go along with it.

I don't have all the answers but something HAS to be done. Please, please help our town, our state, our communities.

Meegan Anderson

From: Debbie Kinney <ap@addisonsupply.com>

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 10:44 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office **Subject:** 56th - 64th S Adams

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

There have been a series of dangerous incidents on this street. Numerous calls and emails have been sent for help and protection and there has been nothing done. I work on this street and am afraid morning and night going to and from work. I'm so nervous going to work and I need my job, I can't quit. The homeless are moving in rapidly and we are harassed by them. Also, the trash that is scattered and these people walk in the street naked.

Please, something needs to be done. Please help us.

From: marcikn@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 5:10 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Drugs and crime related

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Flagged

Dear sir/madam,

Number one close the borders so that the cartel and traffickers of these drugs can be halted. Then prosecute these criminals severely and not just catch and release.

Number two: Refund and recruit police with no restrictions on arresting, chasing them, touching them, and allow force as they are killing our citizens and young people.

Number three: make it known that these perpetrators and traffickers will be incarcerated and deported or sentence to the death penalty if found guilty! Like in other countries and this shit will stop!

# City Clerk 733 Market Street, Room 345 Tacoma, WA 98402 homeintacoma@cityoftacoma.org

# Re: "Home in Tacoma Phase 2 is Underway"

I am a homeowner in a single-family home and have lived in Tacoma my whole life!

I live in this where this type of housing is because I do not want to live by or next to a fourplex, multifamily, rowhouses, or medium multifamily home.

I invested in the property.

My neighborhood is comfortable, pleasant and peaceful. If I wanted, I could choose to live in an apartment or multifamily home.

There are many dwellings of this sort available for me to select from in the city. They truly are readily available and pretty much everywhere!

It is my belief that you are approaching this situation without considering the landowners in the area and their needs and interests.

I do not want a large building next door! And along with this type of growth comes, congestion, clogged roads, and ugliness. I already see too many people, cars, stuff that obstructs the area. In addition, where would you suppose these additional residents' shop? How will they get around? What does that mean to those of us already here? The roads are inadequate, the space will not accommodate more structures without affecting the existing structures.

You already ruined the Procter District with several high-rise apartment buildings! The area has been altered forever and that's not all, the parking, post office, grocery store and streets are horrible! It is a disgrace, this was such a nice area to shop, have a meal and visit the farmers market. So awful to see this happen to what was such a nice area. Enough is enough!

All you really want is more money. If its housing that is needed - find it elsewhere! Move to the undeveloped areas of the city and county. Build it correctly with the right infrastructure to support the multifamily homes. Leave the areas already developed as single-family homes alone to live in peace as this is what my neighbors and I want and we have rights too! You represent all of us ... we vote, we pay taxes and we are already here – do not discount nor dismiss our needs in this process.

Ron Elson Tacoma, WA 98407 RECEIVED

JAN 19 2023
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

City Clerk
733 Market Street, Room 345; Tacoma, WA 98402
homeintacoma@cityoftacoma.org

Re: Housing Growth in Tacoma "Help Shape the future housing in Tacoma"

We are very upset on how <u>you have already destroyed</u> neighborhoods in Tacoma and you continue to create an illusion that you want our input, but fail to listen or adjust with this our opinion.

We want it known that we have **NO INTEREST** in supporting the ideas proposed regarding fourplex, multifamily, rowhouses, or medium multifamily structures. It is already demonstrated that the roads, parking, and grocery establishments cannot accommodate your plan. The Proctor District has been ruined. The one post office in the north end, you cannot even park your car and safely enter and exit the building. The street itself is dangerous as there are more cars than roads.

As lifelong residents and homeowners of a single-family home in the City of Tacoma, we wish to inform you of our thoughts on this topic. We would be remiss in our responsibility if we remained silent. We own a single-family home. We were born and raised in Tacoma. We have been homeowners for some time now and we also have rights! We live in this environment because we do not want to live by or next to a multifamily home. We invested in the property and work hard at two jobs to pay the mortgage. We wish to feel safe and secure knowing that our neighbors and we are enjoying our single-family homes. The whole beauty of a single-family home is just that, you have atmosphere to feel safe, create, cultivate your property and enjoy the scenery. We wish to maintain the current quality of life and living the life in our home that we enjoy today. The neighborhood is comfortable, pleasant and peaceful. If we wanted, we could choose to live in a multifamily home or apartment. There are many places of this sort available to us to select from in the city. They truly are everywhere already!

There are many, many locations for interested homeowners to find housing. Why do the single-family home-owners have to sacrifice for this need. If more housing is required, go outside the city limits and build your complexes there.

In addition, we do not want the environment that we have chosen to be spoiled by a towering building next door! And along with this it is already demonstrated that there is an increase of congestion, clogged roads, and ugliness. We at times can't get out of our driveway because of the traffic. We are already locked in their homes as our neighborhood is filled too many people, cars, stuff that obstructs the area. And where would you suppose these additional residents' shop? How will they travel? What does that mean to those of us already in place and waiting in line for our food, supplies, needs? The lines get longer, the roads are congested and poorly maintained, power grids and airwaves are full.

Currently because of all of the existing multifamily dwelling spaces already approved and built, we can't even enjoy the waterway we have loved! It is a shame what has happened to the Proctor District! This was such a nice area to shop and see a movie, have a meal and visit the farmer's market. So very sad to see this happen to what was such a nice area. Enough is enough!

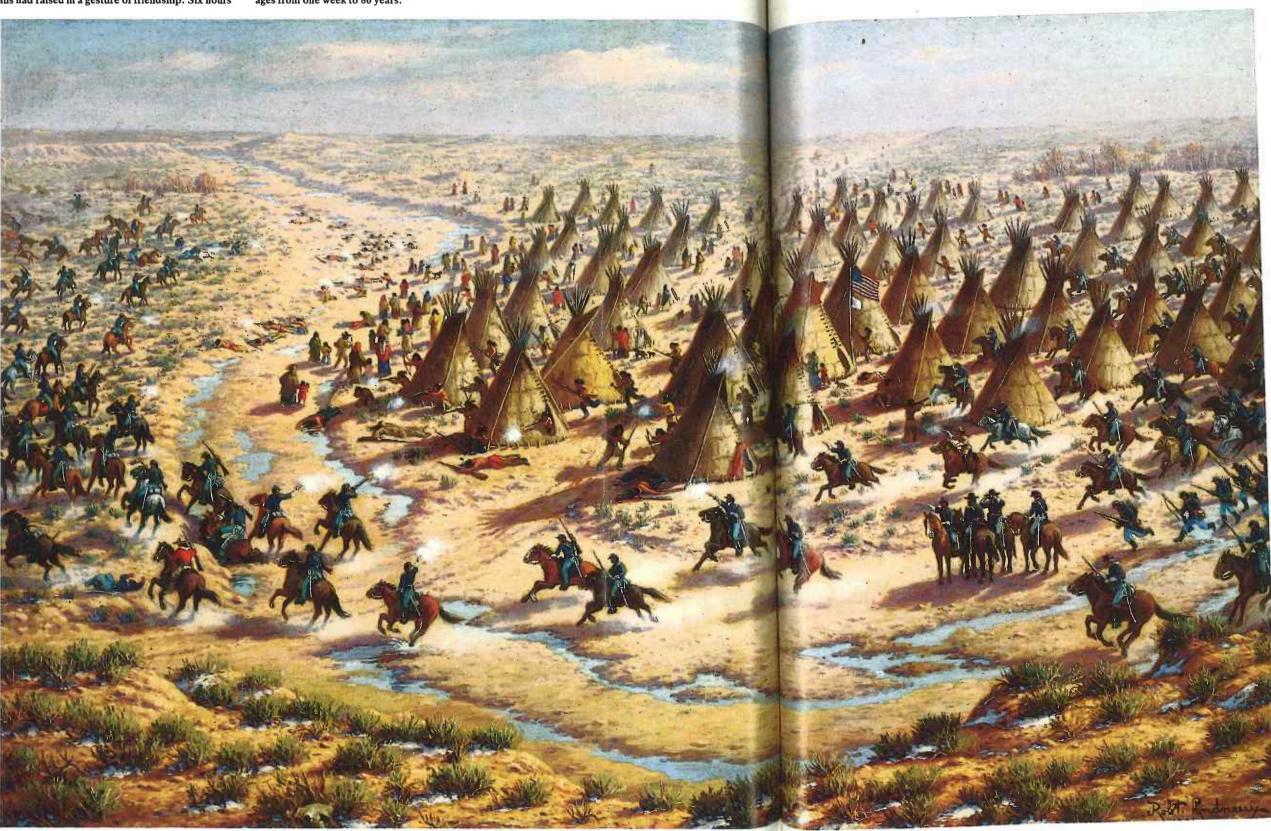
We vote! We Pay our Taxes! We should have a say in what happens in our neighborhood! Please do not discount, nor dismiss or needs in this process.

Tom & Laura Grubb 3524 North Orchard Tacoma, WA 9807 JAN 19 2023

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

To: mayor Woodord City Monager Pouli, City Attorney Stosbre, send members of Jocomes City Council: Subject: NEED FOR NATIVE AMERICAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION Why? Why doer the City Corniel has so preamble to the flog solute every terry knowniel meeting? To recognize a wrong? Ont addisonthy Dogwo in trying to foshion itself or a ontirescut city! The first step in any change is getting to the nost of a problem; and for the usure of Omerican housen - it began with the Systematic GENOCIDE soguent insugenow Omericans for the purpose of expression of their land (95% t gone). Extreme horism was port and porcel against these sovoger. Slovery was introduced later. Britain France, und Spain bezon this places though colonization. It was somerium Plerestente and the U.S. Congless that coolified this systematic general by schooling octs (such as the INDIAN REMOVALACT), herolitum and exective order against notion Omerican. And the times ended in complete entermination of Ann triber-their job was to clear the West A Instion and confine them to reservations for the purpose of colonization of white settlers one hundred and twenty-five triber were entingrished! Genocide: michele Reich MICHELE REIGH RECEIVED CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Carbines and pistols blazing, the 3rd Colorado Cavalry drives frantic Cheyennes from their village at Sand Creek, Colorado, on November 29, 1864, heedless of an American and a white flag the Indians had raised in a gesture of friendship. Six hours



FOR: MAYOR VICTORIA WOODARDS

(NATIVE AMERICAN)

(JEN-O-CIDE 1. EXTERMINATION

OF A RACE OR NATION. QNE OF THOUSANDS

OF ENCOUNTERS!