



Neighborhood Crime Prevention Newsletter

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City of Tacoma, Human Rights and Human Services Department

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February Crime Prevention Theme “Community Continuity”

Happy Valentine Month!

Community Continuity is a fancy way of saying Neighborhood Stability. Are stable neighborhoods safer and do they have lower crime? They certainly do. This month’s theme may seem a little difficult to translate into Crime Prevention actions, but the majority of low crime neighborhoods are that way because the residents feel a strong connection to that neighborhood which was built over a period of time. The connection they feel leads them to act for the betterment of the neighborhood when they see problems.

To make it clearer when “Community Continuity” exists, these questions should generate favorable answers:

- Do very few residents plan to move out of the neighborhood in the immediate future?
- Do young residents leave the neighborhood then return to live, or leave for good?
- Do adult children of neighborhood residents remain in the neighborhood to establish their own households?
- Do older residents receive support to remain in the neighborhood, or sell their homes to newcomers?
 - ...to buyers already living in the neighborhood?
 - ...to their children, or other neighborhood residents’ children?
 - ...because they can no longer afford to maintain their homes?

This month we’ll look at City of Tacoma programs that help make neighborhoods more stable and keep them that way; that help eliminate things that destabilize neighborhoods, like lack of employment, fear and hopelessness caused by blighted conditions throughout the neighborhood, Domestic Violence, lack of essential services and businesses in the neighborhood, and distrust among residents and of the police.

You’ll surely find good ideas in the February edition. Thanks for reading.



March 2010 is U.S. Census Time! Please Participate!

A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

- If someone claiming to be a census taker comes to your door, ask to see their ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name.
- Note that the census taker will never ask to enter your home, or ask you for your social security number or banking information.
- If you’re still not certain about their identity, please call the Regional Census Centers at (425)-908-3000 to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau.

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Programs and Resources

Housing Related

Programs that help people keep their homes well maintained, and prevent turn over in residency in the neighborhood, also help prevent crime in that neighborhood. Neighbors who can and want to stay in their homes add to the stability of a neighborhood, whether they are homeowners or renters.

Home Repair Loans

If you or someone you know has a disability is elderly and/or very low income, the [Major Home Repair](#) program may be able to provide for the repair or replacement of a failed component of the home, such as a heating system, roof, sewer, an unsafe electrical service, carpentry or inside plumbing. Loans up to \$10,000 with no interest and no monthly payments are available to qualified individuals to pay for these repairs. To learn more, call 591-5236.

Home Rehabilitation Loans

The City of Tacoma wants to assist in [preserving](#) the quality and stability of our neighborhoods.

Home Energy Program: Loans up to \$25,000.00 for the installation, repair or replacement of windows, exterior doors, storm doors, insulation and furnace.

Moderate Housing Repair Program: Loans up to \$25,000.00 for the installation, repair or replacement of components of the house not in compliance with Housing Quality Standards.

Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program: Loans up to \$65,000.00 for the repair or replacement of all defective code related conditions in the home. In some situations, general property improvements may be included.

Contact (253) 591-5230 for additional information on these three programs.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program II/Down Payment Assistance Program Guidelines

These NSP/DPA funds can only be used for the purchase and owner-occupancy of a vacant, single family dwelling that has been foreclosed upon in one of three designated areas; [Hilltop](#), [Eastside](#) and [South Tacoma](#). Call 591-5219 for additional details.

Landlord-Tenant Program

The City of Tacoma [Landlord-Tenant Program](#) is focused on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Tacoma by giving landlords and tenants with the tools needed to sustain safe, healthy, equitable and crime free communities. The Landlord-Tenant Coordinator can be reached at 253-591-5163, TTY 253-591-5153, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Walk-in assistance is also offered on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Inquires can also be emailed to hrhs@cityoftacoma.org.

Fair Housing

The Tacoma Human Rights and Human Services Department investigates and resolves complaints alleging [discrimination in housing](#). The Fair Housing program receives, investigates, and resolves complaints of discrimination in housing transactions (rental, sales, lending, insurance, advertising) alleging violations of the Law Against Discrimination. For more information contact Human Rights and Human Services Department 747 Market Street, Room 836, Tacoma, WA 98402 253-591-5151 (voice) | hrhs@cityoftacoma.org.

Human Services

Human Services provides programs to help meet the needs of homeless Tacoma residents living in encampments. The objective of this program is to clean and permanently close encampment sites around the City and to help homeless individuals move to permanent supportive housing. **Encampment Repopulation Hotline: (253) 830-6500.**

HOME WEATHERIZATION

Weatherizing your home saves money, saves energy and increases the comfort and value of your home. [Weatherizing](#) includes insulating ceilings, floors, walls and water pipes; sealing and insulating heating air ducts; and replacing inefficient windows. **We can help you pay for the work.** Tacoma Power offers rebates and zero-interest loans to help you pay for installing new energy-efficient windows and insulation and having your ducts sealed. You can get up to \$3,600 when you insulate your ceilings, floors and walls and seal your heating air ducts. You can also get up to \$1,000 when you replace your inefficient windows. Any remaining cost can be financed with a seven-year, zero-interest loan. Qualifying low-income customers are eligible for a grant that typically covers the entire cost of new windows and insulation. **Eligibility:** You can participate in the weatherization program if you're a Tacoma Power customer; your home is electrically heated; and your house was built before 1988.



Employment and Training Related



When neighborhood residents have reliable, living wage jobs, they are more likely to remain in the neighborhood and be active participants in neighborhood activities. Involved neighbors make neighborhoods desirable and stable.

Local Employment and Apprenticeship Training Program (LEAP)

As a tool to tackle unemployment in Tacoma, the City Council and Public Utility Board developed [LEAP](#) in March 1997. Since its beginning, LEAP's purpose has been to level the playing field for citizens seeking employment opportunities. The program is helping more workers get family wage jobs on City of Tacoma, Public Works projects. LEAP's mission is to provide residents of Tacoma, particularly those from the Empowerment Zone/Renewal Community, with training and support services they need to complete apprenticeship requirements which lead to family-wage jobs in the building and construction trades. For questions about LEAP or apprenticeship opportunities, please contact LEAP Coordinator Peter Guzman at (253) 594-7933 or pguzman@cityoftacoma.org.

Historically Under-Utilized Business Program (HUB)

Administered by the City's Finance Department, [HUB](#), as well as the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprises program, creates opportunities that help to level the playing field and stimulate our local economy throughout the public contracting community. The City of Tacoma's Historically Underutilized Business Program (HUB) offers contracting opportunities and business management assistance to qualified small business contractors so they can offer more jobs to the community. Need more information? Please email HUB Program Coordinator, Percy F. Jones, Jr., (253) 502-8072, pjones@cityoftacoma.org.

SMALL WORKS ROSTER PROGRAM

The City of Tacoma wants to help businesses build up their bottom line! The City's Small Works Roster Program (SWR) allows contracting companies more opportunities to create jobs in our community. If you have any questions about the Small Works Roster program, please contact Percy F. Jones, Jr., (253) 502-8072, pjones@cityoftacoma.org.

THE CARE CONNECTION

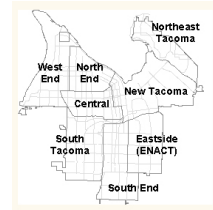
We save employers time and money by helping their employees find quality [child care](#). These services include a designated telephone line, confirmed vacancies, follow-up calls, and other personalized support for parents. Education materials and parenting seminars at the workplace are other options. We support efforts to enhance child care quality by offering training and technical assistance to providers. Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments at childcare@cityoftacoma.org, 253-591-2025, 1-888-370-6133, or Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII) 1-800-833-6386 (VCO) or 1-877-833-6341 (STS).

Human Rights Division

The Human Rights Division will be a conduit for change by eliminating barriers to equality, bridging our divisions, and helping our citizens respect each other's diversity. [Equal Employment and Public Accommodation Discrimination](#), [Americans With Disabilities Act](#), and [Discrimination Complaint Process](#). Contact the Human Rights and Human Services Department about these programs at 747 Market Street, Room 836, Tacoma, WA 98402, 253-591-5151 (voice), hrhs@cityoftacoma.org, and People with hearing or speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII); 1-800-833-6386 (VCO); or 1-877-833-6341 (STS).

Neighborhood Amenities Related

Stable neighborhoods have appealing amenities.



Neighborhood Council Program

Tacoma's Neighborhood Council Program offers a way for community members to band together to improve their immediate surroundings through partnership with each other and the City. Tacoma is a city where rolling up your sleeves can truly have an impact, and our Neighborhood Council Program offers excellent ways to do just that. Learn more about each Neighborhood Council's objectives, identified needs/wants and the steps outlined to be taken to make their neighborhood vision a reality. Also, check out the [schedule](#) of the regular Neighborhood Council meetings to get involved; our [frequently asked questions](#); and our City of Tacoma [liaisons](#) that are assigned to assist each Neighborhood Council on the City of Tacoma website at: <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/Page.aspx?nid=101>.



Senior Services

The Human Rights and Human Services Department provides programs to help meet the needs of Tacoma residents such as [Senior Services](#). The City of Tacoma owns and operates two [senior activity centers](#), Beacon Activity Center and Lighthouse Activity Center, that provide a comprehensive array of programs designed to improve and maintain health, stimulate learning, and provide socialization, recreational, and volunteer opportunities for people age 50 and older. The two senior activity centers are also [meal sites](#) where nutritious lunch is served at noon, Monday through Friday. On Wednesday every week, the Lighthouse Activity Center hosts the Hispanic Meal Site, which offers an authentic Hispanic menu and programs in the Spanish language. [Beacon Menu](#) [Lighthouse Menu](#). Contact the Human Rights and Human Services Department about these programs at 747 Market Street, Room 836, Tacoma, WA 98402, 253-591-5151 (voice), hrhs@cityoftacoma.org, and People with hearing or speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII); 1-800-833-6386 (VCO); or 1-877-833-6341 (STS).



Tacoma Public Library

Find out where [books](#) and information can take you today by checking the Tacoma Public Library. As one of the most important educational and cultural institutions in the city, the Tacoma Public Library is an essential resource for the residents of the city of Tacoma. Who uses the Library? **Everyone**. Tacoma Public Library's general information telephone number is (253) 591-5666.



Metro Parks Tacoma

The [Metropolitan Park District](#) maintains parks and community centers in Tacoma and the surrounding area. Check their page for parks programs or call (253) 305-1000/**TTY (253)759-9286**.

Business Related

Healthy businesses that are compatible with the overall nature of the neighborhood keep money, jobs and good neighbors from going elsewhere for goods, services and opportunities, and so strengthen and stabilize the neighborhood.

Tacoma's Neighborhood Business Districts Program

[Find](#) local history, great shopping ideas, services you need, family-friendly special events, restaurants, ballet classes, doggy boutiques, noodle soup, beading classes, or great music right near your house!



Historically Under-Utilized Business Program (HUB)

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SMALL WORKS ROSTER PROGRAM

The City of Tacoma wants to help you build up your bottom line! The City's Small Works Roster Program (SWR) allows contracting companies to register to bid on public works projects with a budget of \$25,000 or less. The Tacoma City Council established the program to offer more contracting opportunities to small, locally owned and operated businesses for public works projects and improvements—which helps create jobs in Tacoma. The program allows program participants to bid on projects in the following five categories: Asbestos Removal, Asphalt/Concrete Sidewalks and Driveways, Curbs and Gutters, Demolition, or Roadway Guard Rail Installation Repair and Replacement. If your business performs work in any of these categories, the Small Works Roster Application Form is your ticket to more job creation opportunities. If you have any questions about the application form or the Small Works Roster program, please contact Percy F. Jones, Jr., (253) 502-8072, pjones@cityoftacoma.org.

THE CARE CONNECTION

We save employers [time and money](#) by helping their employees find quality child care. These services include a designated telephone line, confirmed vacancies, follow-up calls, and other personalized support for parents. Education materials and parenting seminars at the workplace are other options. We support efforts to enhance child care quality by offering training and technical assistance to providers. Contact us with any questions or comments at childcare@cityoftacoma.org, 253-591-2025, 1-888-370-6133, or Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII) 1-800-833-6386 (VCO) or 1-877-833-6341 (STS).

Neighborhood Strength Related

Establishing strong foundations for the neighborhood increases residents' feeling of attachment to that neighborhood, and decreases property neglect and the rate of turnover among residents.



Community Based Services Program

[Building neighborhoods](#) from the inside out. City departments work in partnership with neighborhood groups, are aligned with community priorities and citizens are actively engaged in the maintenance, enjoyment, and improvement of their neighborhoods.



Tacoma School District

Click through to the [Tacoma School District](#) site for all things related to the public school system that serves Tacoma residents. Free public education is a foundation building block of all our communities.

Local Improvement Districts

A Local Improvement District ([LID](#)) provides a way for property owners to get together to pay for street and alley paving, sanitary sewers, street lighting or underground wiring. Property owners agree to form LIDs when the benefits from the improvements outweigh the costs, and public funds are not available to accomplish the improvements. Benefits include added value to your property and improvements to your neighborhood. You pay an amount proportional to the benefits you receive for each property you own. Contact: Please call LID representative Ralph Rodriguez at 591-5522 or Dave Wurzbach at 591-5523 for answers to your questions unique to your neighborhood.

Crime Prevention



Crime Free Housing

The Tacoma Crime Free Housing Program is a public safety partnership that assists residents, owners and managers of rental properties in keeping drugs and other illegal activity off their property. The CFHP is a crime-fighting program. CFHP demonstrates a good faith effort to learn about illegal activity, address community security concerns and educate residents about crime prevention. Contact Audrey Hornbuckle at 253-591-5048, ahornbuckle@cityoftacoma.org,

Neighborhood Crime Prevention

The Neighborhood [Crime Prevention Program](#) ensures that community members remain aware of and have access to the Crime Prevention resources provided by the City of Tacoma. It accomplishes this via community awareness campaigns, public presentations, representation at community events, and collaboration with community service providers. Program staff collaborates with all City departments to deliver crime prevention messages and resources consistently and comprehensively across the City. For more information on Crime Prevention resources, or to get involved, please contact Lisa Copp at (253) 591-5277.

Domestic Violence Program

The Domestic Violence Program works together with community and criminal justice agencies to serve victims of [domestic violence](#) throughout Pierce County by providing education and direct services.

Tacoma Police Department Community Liaison Officers

Sixteen Tacoma police officers are designated as [Community Liaison Officers](#). Each Sector has four CLO’s assigned to it. Their job is to provide specialized services to the community and businesses in their sector, and act as a focal point for sector response to community concerns. Those duties include: Instruct crime prevention classes for citizen groups and businesses. Actively participate, as members, with the Tacoma CARES Enforcement Team in an effort to eliminate blight that causes neighborhood deterioration. Work closely with Block Watches. Give public presentations on Community Oriented Policing and problem solving, emphasizing individual neighborhood responsibility for organizing and participating in efforts to find solutions to problems. Research property ownership of problem locations and work with the owners toward problem resolution. To contact the Community Liaison Officer for your sector, locate the sector in which you live and/or work and call the number below:

Sector One

Front Desk: 594-7800 (MLK), 594-7970 (NE Tacoma)

Sector Three

Front Desk: 594-7838

Sector Two

Front Desk: 573-2508

Sector Four

Front Desk: 594-7947

Emergency 911

Gang Hotline 253-594-7867

Police Non-Emergency 253-798-4721

Narcotics Tip Line 253-475-CRAK (2725)



March’s Theme:
“Listing Landlords”

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