



City of Tacoma
WASHINGTON

October Update from your District 2 Council Member

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Dear District 2 Residents,

You know that fall has come to the Northwest when you have to wear socks, and shorts are no longer an option. While I try to wear sweaters during every season, fall is the one that calls you to dig out the one stuffed to the back of the closet.

I particularly like fall because the weather changes, leaves start to change colors, and there are fall sports. Hopefully you will have a chance to catch some of the high school sports taking place in our district. We are lucky to have such a beautiful school, Stadium High School, right in our district. Since school is back in full swing, this is a reminder to watch your speed in school zones and mind the posted speed of 20 mph during the posted hours.

Starting January 1, 2023, speeds in residential areas will lower from 25 mph to 20 mph. Additionally, speeds in the Old Town, McKinley, Lincoln, and Sixth Avenue Business Districts will be reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph. This is an implementation of Tacoma's Vision Zero goals, passed as a resolution by the Tacoma City Council in 2020. The goal is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Tacoma by the year 2035. More than 40,000 people are killed in the U.S. every year. Lowering speeds is one thing we can do to make our city safer for everyone. In addition to lowering speeds, we are looking at how we can design our streets to create a safer built environment. We all benefit when we are safer on our streets.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Sarah Rumbaugh
City of Tacoma | District 2

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Town Hall meeting



The poster for the Town Hall meeting features a portrait of Sarah Rumbaugh, District 2 City Council Member, on the left. To the right, the text reads: "Town Hall" in large blue letters, followed by "WITH DISTRICT 2 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER Sarah Rumbaugh" in smaller blue letters. Below this, it says "Join the conversation on October 19, 2022 | 6 - 7:30 PM" and "Stadium High School, Theater Room 111 N E St, Tacoma, WA 98403". The City of Tacoma logo is in the bottom right corner.

As your Council Member, I have continually heard from you about the issues that our district and the City face. I am holding a district-wide town hall at Stadium High School to connect with you and our community. Please join me October 19, from 6 – 7:30 PM, as we work on solutions together and update you on our accomplishments of this past year

Crime Plan

Chief Moore has started to implement his [violent crime reduction strategy](#). The strategy involves an increased police visibility. Based on crime analysis and mapping, the Tacoma Police Department will assign officers to be highly visible at hot spot locations identified by crime analysis as the most violence-prone and at times when violence is most often reported. Pre- and post-implementation data on crime, arrests, and calls for service will be tracked at and around the targeted hot spots, and violence-prone addresses will be reviewed and adjusted every 90 days. The community was updated at the North End Neighborhood Committee meeting in September.



I met with a group of businesses, homeless advocates, and those with lived experience recently. It is clear the issue of crime is something that is impacting our community in many ways. Hopefully, we will find a way to work with the police and the community to rectify an increasingly unstable situation.

Homelessness Update

It is very hard to address this issue because it is something that can be divisive. Our district has experienced a lot of homelessness throughout the Stadium, North Slope, Dome District, and Downtown area, as well as the Marine View Drive and E. 11th Street areas by Northeast Tacoma. I hope that we can work to find solutions that will help create shelter for those who wish to take it. We currently have eight City-run temporary shelters and will be opening a low barrier site at the end of October. Please follow our City Council conversations on a proposed ordinance prohibiting camping and the storage of personal belongings on public property around temporary shelters. The proposed ordinance was drafted in response to a sharp uptick in public health and safety concerns received from community members regarding these specific areas. Let me know your thoughts by reaching out to my city email. You can watch the City Council's final consideration of this ordinance on [TV Tacoma](#) at tonight's City Council meeting, starting at 5 PM.

Budget

We are currently in the process of reviewing the [proposed 2023-2024 biennial budget](#). In this process, there are some plans to create funding sources that will help address our \$24 million budget deficit. I have had a lot of questions about why we have a deficit. A few things we have looked at include raising business license fees. We have not adjusted these since 2017 and believe that now is the time to consider this increase. Additionally, we are looking to do an excise tax that will support a department to fully fund Tidy Up Tacoma, graffiti removal, and encampment clean up. These are three things we have heard a lot about through Tacoma FIRST 311, and we hope to better respond to these requests through one department, rather than having several departments responsible as they are now. Watch for the announcement of three budget town halls this fall where you can learn more about how we balance the budget and share your priorities with the City.

Schuster Parkway

I have been meeting with community members who live near the Schuster Slope Landscape Management area. The Landscape Management Plan covers the entire Schuster Slope from Garfield Gulch to 705 offramp – this encompasses 31 acres. The area that we have been actively restoring at the top of the slope in that area is about 3 acres, from South 4th Street to Division Way. The 2014 plan was put in place to achieve a sustainable target ecosystem, improving slope stability, maximizing stormwater benefit, and increasing public safety and infrastructure protection. It is a 20-year plan that we hope will restore the growth and create a mature planting structure to hold the soils in place. The continued illegal cutting and other uses are obstacles for the City moving forward and restoring it to a natural ecological succession on the hillside. We are following best practices that have worked in other cities. Continuing to allow cutting and topping of trees could create dangerous situations.

Upper Buckley Gulch



I met with Environmental Services to do a walk through of this project. As many in the neighborhood are aware, stormwater work started at Junett and 15th earlier this summer. The contracted project ran into a snag in the work and now there is a need to remove more trees in the gulch. The City is taking responsibility for any issues with adjacent properties and understands that this is a continued inconvenience for the neighborhood. Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns and I will connect you with Environmental Services staff.

Spectator Ordinance

I had the opportunity to be a part of a [syndicated show on street racing](#). Earlier this year, I sponsored an ordinance to make it illegal to be a spectator at a street racing event. This ordinance has supported

the Tacoma Police Department's work to apprehend Street Racing Organizers. Four suspected street racing organizers have recently been charged with a total of 26 counts of Aiding and Abetting Reckless Driving in Tacoma Municipal Court. The four males had been arrested over the summer in multi-agency operations that included the Kent Police Department, Washington State Patrol, Lakewood Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Ruston Police Department, and the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Community Highlights



I attend the Associated Ministries Community Meeting to get an update on the community's work to provide safe parking to those living in their cars in Pierce County.



After a lengthy hiatus, I was pleased to attend the Stadium District Association meeting for September at Dahlman Cellars.



Council Member Olgy Diaz being celebrated by Mi Centro for her appointment to the Tacoma City Council.



Our Adopt a Highway clean up in NE Tacoma on Browns Point picked up over 43 bags of litter from Marine View Drive in August.



I had the opportunity to represent the City of Tacoma at the open house for TOTE's new headquarters, located at the 909 Building in downtown Tacoma.



The infamous rock in NE Tacoma has been painted. Browns Point Elementary is back in session.

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