



City of Tacoma
W A S H I N G T O N

Childhood Safety Event this Weekend

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Dear City of Tacoma residents,

As I talk with folks throughout our city, I repeatedly hear that community safety is a top priority and growing concern. We are working with our community to address the issue of community safety collaboratively and holistically.

This email highlights just some of ways the City is partnering with community. This Saturday, the Tacoma Policy Department is partnering with the Children’s Advocate Center for a drive-thru gun giveback event to promote childhood safety. The city of Tacoma is also making substantial progress in standing up alternative response models aimed to address public safety needs with diverse tools like behavioral health counselors and non-commissioned community service officers to respond to crimes no longer in progress.

I welcome you to share your vision of how we make Tacoma a safe community for everyone. Please reach out with any priorities or questions for me.

Thank you,
Olgy Diaz
At-Large Tacoma City Council Member

Childhood Safety Event October 2023

Gun violence is a public health crisis facing the children in our community. According to the Centers for Disease Control, gun violence is the leading cause of death of children in America. Gun violence adversely affects the mental health and well-being of children in our community. Reducing the number of unwanted firearms in our community is a crucial step to reducing the risk of children experiencing gun related tragedies.

Join the Children’s Advocacy Center and Tacoma Police Department for a [drive-thru gun giveback event](#). This is an opportunity for community members to turn in unwanted firearms, no questions asked.

WHEN: Saturday, October 7, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

WHERE: Cheney Stadium (2502 S. Tyler St.), enter off of Tyler Street.

- Receive a gift card to be used for basic needs in exchange for unwanted firearms, while supplies last.
- No walk-ups allowed.
- Unwanted firearms must be unloaded and stored in the rear of the vehicle.



\$100 – Shotgun, rifle (hunting)

\$200 – Revolver, handgun

\$300 – Rifle (assault style)

Not accepted: BB, potato, or pellet guns

City of Tacoma Provides Update on Alternative Response Efforts

On September 19, at the City Council Study Session, the City of Tacoma provided an update on its alternative response efforts, which continue to focus on:

- Providing specialized response to 911 calls identified as having a mental, behavioral, and substance use disorder component, as well as preventative and follow-up outreach, through its Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement (HOPE) Team
- Redirecting from law enforcement officers to unarmed Community Service Officers in response to 911 calls, when there is no threat to life or property
- Expanding proactive outreach through its Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaison (HEAL) Team in response to 311 service requests, and standardizing HEAL Team operations

The HOPE Team recently began its “soft launch” phase. This phase, which started in September 2023, is comprised of self-dispatch and requests from Tacoma Fire Department and Tacoma Police Department personnel on scene. This month, the HOPE Team will begin responding in tandem with traditional first responders and, in January 2024, the HOPE Team will begin independent response and continue tandem response.



The Community Policing Management Group received 184 applications for Community Services Officers this month, and 75 of those applicants have completed personal history statements. With a goal of hiring and training up to 10 new Community Services Officers by Spring 2024, oral interviews are being scheduled and conducted, and equipment orders are being finalized as well.

Between the end of 2022 and the second quarter of this year, the HEAL Team achieved a 30 percent reduction in backlogged calls. And, between the second and

third quarter of this year, the HEAL Team reached full staffing levels and achieved a decrease of 5 percent in open cases. Over the last year, the HEAL Team made 2,218 connections with new and repeat clients. 1,193 clients have accepted services and 152 clients have been placed into temporary shelter. The HEAL Team’s approach has always been one founded on best practices, dignity and compassion. The HEAL Team continues to explore opportunities for responses that center a focus on the wellness needs of individuals in encampments.

Additional details on the City’s alternative response efforts are available at cityoftacoma.org/communitysafety. A recording of the study session update is posted at cityoftacoma.legistar.com.



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WASHINGTON

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