

**From:** Sarah Storm-Tower <sarahstormtower@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** CARES act

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I'm a Tacoma homeowner who is tired of seeing tents lining the streets. I support using cares act funding for safe lots and tent cities so that people experiencing homelessness will have a place to go while we work on getting more low income housing. Thank you, Sarah Storm-Tower, 253 223-5159, 1346 S Fawcett, Tacoma, 98402

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Melissa Yager <melissaanna12@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:56 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public Comment for July 21

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I believe that it is imperative that money from the CARES ACT be used to support people who are currently on the street and who may be on the street in the near future.

Neighborhoods are being inundated with people who are living in tents and cars. These neighbors are left on their own to deal with the garbage and waste that is left behind. If we want our streets to be clean and safe, the city must provide garbage cans and bathroom facilities. We want our parks to stay clean, so there are garbage cans for trash to be put in, we want small neighborhood streets to be clean, the same must happen.

We need to provide LONG TERM housing for people, either in a form of a safe lot or small housing options.

The effect of COVID-19 on low-income families are going to result in many many people without housing.

-Melissa Yager

Tacoma Catholic Worker

**From:** Maureen Howard <maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Res. 40630

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Mayor Woodards and Council Members,

I write in support of funding for the "tiny houses."

I look forward to reviewing the City's strategy for sheltered and unsheltered residents. I've been asking for this for about a year now - a Safe Shelter Task Force. I was told there wasn't time. Perhaps it is time we make time? My hope is that there IS a strategy for sheltering all in need and that it is in alignment with the new national Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response. <https://nlihc.org/resource/new-resources-introduced-accompany-framework-equitable-covid-19-homelessness-response>

Perhaps you might request that the City Manager review and report on the status of Tacoma's incorporation of the Framework, particularly the Unsheltered sections, into its plan for responding to homelessness.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance,

Maureen Howard

--

**Maureen Howard**

*MaureenHowardConsulting*  
[maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com)

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3320 S. 8th Street

Tacoma, WA 98405

*Honor John Lewis: Vote!*

*"Never, ever be afraid  
to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."*

**From:** Janet Runbeck <janetrunbeck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** RES40630 on the Agenda of 7/21/2020  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support - Safe Parking COT.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Enclosed please find my letter of support in encouraging the use of CARES Act funding for Safe Parking in the City of Tacoma. There is the ability to create a Safe Parking Network that would allow those who are living in their vehicles, as victims of a rapidly crumbling economy, access to the basic human amenities.

Sincerely submitted,

Jan Runbeck, RN. MN

253-370-3988

[janetrunbeck@gmail.com](mailto:janetrunbeck@gmail.com)

July 21, 2020

Re: Safe Parking Network Project as a Public Health Effort to Reduce the Spread of Covid 19

To: The Tacoma City Council in consideration of RES40630

Discussion:

People who live in cars are considered as experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

According to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html#facility-layout>), under "Considerations for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness" the measures suggested as protocols in the prevention of the spread of Covid 19 would apply to those who live in vehicles.

Local social service providers are saying that those living in cars may never be afforded appropriate services. Since car campers stay in the shadows, without a comprehensive approach to accessing services, there are no channels of communication to promote working with health officials, first responders and neighborhoods.

MDC has designed a "Safe Parking Network". Churches and CBOs can apply for the money it would take to provide an amenity of safe parking, such as food, security, hygiene, or sanitation. From a public health perspective, Covid 19 can be better managed if we set up safe parking for those living in cars, because:

1. We will know where folks are in the case of needing to do contact tracing.
2. Folks will be connected to health and social services, with the goal of rehousing.
3. It is easier to practice 6-foot safe distancing in cars, than in congregate settings. Human waste and garbage would be eliminated from public spaces.
4. It is the humane thing to do, especially considering racial disparities as reflected in both those living homeless and those suffering a higher burden of Covid 19.

As this is a population that may be growing, the danger of spreading Covid 19 also grows.

Please consider Safe Parking as a public health outreach measure that would promote healthy outcomes for all residents of Tacoma.

Sincerely submitted,

Jan Runbeck, RN, MN

[janetrnbeck@gmail.com](mailto:janetrnbeck@gmail.com); 253-370-3988

**From:** Rosemary Powers <rpowers@eou.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** RES40630 public comment for July 21, 2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Dear Mayor Woodards and members of the Tacoma City Council:

I am writing to urge the City Council to consider additional options for providing temporary shelter to Tacoma residents in need of housing. The city's support of the Stability Site and the LIHI tiny house project, and congregate site shelters do address the need, but for a limited number of persons. Options requiring 24/7 staff support are also neither sustainable nor scalable. The current remaining unhoused population, coupled with an expected rise in homelessness following the end of current federal funding responses to COVID-19, demands a wider array of safe (or at least safer) options for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. CARES Act funds should be used to initiate additional temporary projects that we can build on when such funding is no longer available.

At a minimum, and especially during this pandemic, the city should be committed to providing better access to clean drinking water, hand washing and toileting, waste receptacles and regular garbage pickup for those with no other option than to be on the street.

### **Why no safe car lots or sanctioned tent camping?**

I do not understand the stated resistance by the City to considering the creation of safe car lots or sanctioned tent camping sites (possibly with a KOA style format). I know there have been both problems and successes with these models of temporary shelter. I have heard the arguments about liability. However, a failure to provide additional legal options leads to what is happening in our neighborhood in the Hilltop: unsafe on-street parking and unsafe tent camping on parking strips and sidewalks. While I want to be a welcoming presence for unhoused neighbors, it is not fair that neighborhoods like ours bear the brunt of this lack of a comprehensive approach.

The problems ahead are daunting, I know nothing will be easy in moving towards a society that demonstrates the value of the human right to shelter. Many of us in the community --both housed and

unhoused --have ideas. Working together, we can make this happen.

Thank you for your consideration

Rosemary Powers

--

Rosemary F. Powers  
Professor Emerita EOU

Senior Researcher, New Connections  
541-805-0848



**From:** Theresa Power-Drutis <tpdrutis@nctacoma.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Rosemary Powers  
**Subject:** Public comment on RES40630

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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To: Mayor Woodards and City Council Members

From: Theresa Power-Drutis

RE: RES40630

Dear Council Members

We cannot "tiny-home" our way out of our current homelessness problem. While tiny-homes are attractive and (in normal days) a small, welcome piece of the shelter puzzle; these times are anything but normal.

CARES act funds must be invested in shelter options that can expand rapidly - a Tsunami of homelessness is at our doorstep because of C-19. Cares funds need to address the needs of many - not just a few.

With budget shortfalls we will struggle to maintain our current housing and shelter options. We need shelter options that will allow people living in cars and tents to live:

- without being constantly moved
- with access to toileting and hand washing facilities
- safe garbage disposal
- lighting
- safety

We must remove the role of "tent eviction" from our public servants' job duties, especially from law enforcement. This is not an appropriate use of public resources, their time, or their expertise.

We must stop using low-income neighborhoods as containment areas. City representatives worry about liability, as if dumping the social problems of the city onto low-income neighborhoods is not a liability. It is a humanitarian liability at minimum. It can also become a major drain on limited resources if a class action suit is brought against our city as was done in the [Tenderloin district of San Francisco](#).

Use the funds to do what needs to be done now instead of paying later and burning the bridge to community

partnership in the process. Safe lots and safe campgrounds will bring their own problems; but we can answer these problems together and the outcome will be both better and more equitable than the current "solution" of making low income neighborhoods into UNSAFE containment zones.

Regards

**Theresa Power-Drutis**

**253.534.5402: Mobile**

**From:** Megan Capes <capesmegan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:11 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public Comment: RES 40630

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Good evening Mayor, Council, and City Manager,

I want to provide comments on RES 40630 about the LIHI microshelter expansion.

First, I am in support of this expansion. Adding capacity to the shelter system is vital more than ever now as homelessness has increased over 27% over the last year, according to the Point-In-Time Count, which [undercuts the reality](#) and was collected before the pandemic and looming eviction crisis.

But, our community needs to create shelter options and alternatives that have a less costly price tag. There is no way for the City and its community partners to support everyone experiencing homelessness in our community. What happens then to those who are forgotten? How will they be able to meet their basic needs, especially as the pandemic and shutdowns continue?

I am incredibly frustrated by NCS's stance against Safe Parking and sanctioned encampments, especially Director Linda Stewart's claim during the TEMS Town Hall commenting, "That's not what the community wants," referring to both of these projects because they are not wraparound services. Where she got this understanding is completely false, but also demonstrates a more concerning lack of equitable input in the department's decision-making.

Community partners, advocates, concerned housed neighbors living near and watching unsheltered homelessness, and people experiencing homelessness currently in our community have all offered support (and continue to do so) for seeking shelter alternatives, like Safe Parking lots and sanctioned encampments, for years. If these directly-impacted groups are not a part of the "community" that Linda is leaning on for feedback and input on decisions, then that's incredibly troubling as the Director over the department in charge of combatting the homelessness crisis.

This also makes me wonder how the City of Tacoma, especially NCS, is supporting individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in our community.

1. How is the City providing-- or not providing-- basic needs services (like bathroom access, access to drinking water, and safe places to rest and sleep) currently to community members **living unsheltered outside**?
2. How is the City supporting -- or not supporting-- basic needs services to community members **living unsheltered in vehicles**?

The City should have a plan not only to increase shelter, but also should have a basic plan of action to make sure that our most vulnerable residents, living outdoors and in vehicles, are able to survive with dignity with access to a bathroom, food, drinking water, and a place to rest. City leadership should pursue a report on the two questions above to figure out what is the City doing, but also where may there be gaps to figure out accurate action steps to support the needs of these residents.

Megan Capes

TDSA Housing Working Group co-chair

**From:** Rachel Kunze Wilkie <RachelLeAnnKunze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Micro-Shelter Agenda Item

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning,

I wanted to write today and express my firm support for the new Micro-shelter being funded on 60th and McKinley. I think we need to be proactive and begin creating more of these. There are several unhoused people in my neighborhood, near 72nd and Pacific, as well, and if the current moratoriums on evictions expire, even more people could soon be unhoused.

As a person who has volunteered and worked with homeless people for more than a decade, I can't stress enough how important it is for shelters to not temporarily house people overnight (though that is very important in the short term), but to commit resources to work on helping the unhoused navigate the bureaucratic red tape to reconnect them with programs, healthcare, mental healthcare, and housing.

I currently volunteer at Hospitality House in Burien, WA, which has an excellent model. It's a 90-day program designed for women, to give them 3 months of consistent housing, with daily staff present to coach them through job searches, and assist them with every aspect of reconnecting with programs.

Thank you,  
Rachel Wilkie  
6842 S Park Avenue, Tacoma