

**From:** Gabby Connors <gnconnors@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment

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

Hello:

My name is Gabby Connors, and I am a resident and registered voter in Pierce County.

I am writing this email to once again call for the arrest and prosecution of the four officers responsible for the murder of Manuel Ellis in March 2020. It is unacceptable that these officers have not been charged for their crimes four months after Mr. Ellis's death. The City of Tacoma must ensure that the Ellis family receives justice in a swift manner: no more delay.

I am also writing to demand that the council significantly defund the Tacoma Police Department and reallocate that money to combat homelessness and provide affordable housing. Rewriting the budget must be done in a way that prioritizes public safety in new ways: by assisting those who have fallen into poverty and financial hardship rather than criminalizing them.

The city council must take this moment in history to enact real change in the justice system. Be the change.

Best,  
Gabby Connors

**From:** Teela R <teelathevegan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** defund Tacoma police

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello. I am writing to you today to demand justice for two people in our community that were murdered by Tacoma police.

Meet the demands of Manuel Ellis' family:

- release complaint history, disciplinary record, and a toxicology report of all officers involved to the family
- release autopsy and footage to the family
- fire and convict to the highest degree officers Matthew Collins, Christopher Burbank, Masyih Ford, and Timothy Rankine
- fire police chief Donald Ramsdell

Fire officer Ryan Bradley for the murder of Bennie Branch.

The Tacoma Police department does not keep our community safe- they need to be defunded. Hold this department accountable for the murders they have committed. Justice for Manny & Bennie now!

--teela royset  
(Tacoma resident 98444)

**From:** Rich Wood <mr.rgwood@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:44 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office; Thoms, Robert

**Subject:** Justice for Manuel Ellis

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Dear Mayor Woodards, Councilman Thoms and Tacoma City Council,

I wrote to you prior to the June 9 council meeting and never received a response.

As a longtime Tacoma resident and member of the community, I demand justice for Manuel Ellis, who was killed by members of the Tacoma Police Department. Our community cannot feel safe or protected as long as those officers are employed by our city government.

As I wrote in my earlier email, our police department must be rebuilt and reimagined, with an emphasis on community relationships, clear anti-racist policies and more support for Tacoma residents who have mental health and addiction issues. The current model of policing in Tacoma is not sustainable. It is inequitable and does not serve our community well.

I am appreciative that the blue line flag decals were removed from Tacoma police vehicles, but I am disappointed our city leaders allowed police officers to place a divisive political sticker on city vehicles in the first place.

I am pleased the police chief has announced his retirement. His mishandling of the Manuel Ellis killing and aftermath has been extremely disappointing and provides further evidence we need a wholesale change in the direction and philosophy of our police department.

Mayor Woodards, thank you for your vocal and public leadership against police brutality and racism within our police department.

Black Lives Matter in Tacoma.

Thank you.

Rich Wood

253-376-1007

1430 N. Oakes

**From:** Guion Rosenzweig <guionyork@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - City Council Meeting 07/28/2020

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Good Afternoon City Council,  
Thank you for your time today, and I appreciate you reading public comments.

As always, I would like to renew my pleas to call for a vote to have the officers involved in the murder and coverup of Manuel Ellis' death be fired. This is now in your power Councilmembers, as City Manager Pauli has said she will only make this call if Council calls for a vote in favor. Each day that goes by without these officers being fired further compounds the tragedy of Mr. Ellis' homicide by police.

Last week at the council meeting, it was mentioned that not many people had taken advantage of the covid rental assistance program from the city. It was also mentioned that this was despite heavy marketing of the service. Ideas surrounding expanding this to mortgage payments were discussed.

I wanted to call your attention to the lack of marketing that I have seen for this program. The city has posted about 3 times over the course of as many months on the topic on Facebook. This is the only marketing I have personally seen. I am TRULY lucky to not need the assistance, but it concerns me that I have not seen more marketing. I am pretty dialed in on city shows, websites, marketing, social media, etc.

First, please consider stronger marketing to affected groups for higher participation. Second, please consider that if you expand this to mortgages other considerations must be taken into place for equity reasons. Many mortgages are owned by landlords on second homes. It does not seem appropriate to assist these mortgages when there likely are still renters or single home owners who need this assistance. Please don't let this become a landlord handout. Third, please consider what questions or proof may be needed for this assistance that could potentially be turning people off of the process. What questions were asked to verify the 50% AMI? Additionally, why was 50% decided on? Many of our affordable housing programs go up to 80% AMI. Would expanding that percentage be more prudent than including mortgages? Just ideas to consider for equitability.

I think we can do better than 3 facebook ads on such an important program. It may have been in other places, but again, it never came across my eyes except on Facebook and in city council meetings.

Please consider how we market this, who is involved in the program, and what happens with mortgages and landlords. As you may know by now, I believe strongly in city services and their positive effect, especially as it relates to the need for police. My goal today is to voice how this is a great example of how we could potentially do better with a program that is already funded but underutilized.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,  
Guion Rosenzweig, North Slope Tacoma

**From:** Rachel Kunze Wilkie <RachelLeAnnKunze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 7:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Housing Discrimination Agencies Lapsing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Good Evening,

This evening I was watching the CIRA public meeting to express support for the release of all detainees at the NorthWest Detention Center on bail for the duration of Covid, and wished to state to the City Council prior to next Tuesday's meeting, that I support this resolution.

Additionally, I was concerned to learn that several agencies that deal directly with housing discrimination have been allowed to lapse or close during Covid, leaving our population vulnerable at a time when mass evictions and foreclosures are due to begin any day. These agencies are designed to make certain that every resident has equal access to housing. More people evicted without recourse will add to our burgeoning homeless population, which will also add to our Covid rates, if families are left without access to adequate distancing and sanitation.

Please take steps to make sure that these agencies are funded, and staff ready and able to assist our residents as evictions begin with the end of those protections.

Thank you,  
Rachel Wilkie

**From:** Courtney Stoker <courtneymstoker@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:06 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office; City Manager

**Subject:** Public Comment 7/28

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello Council,

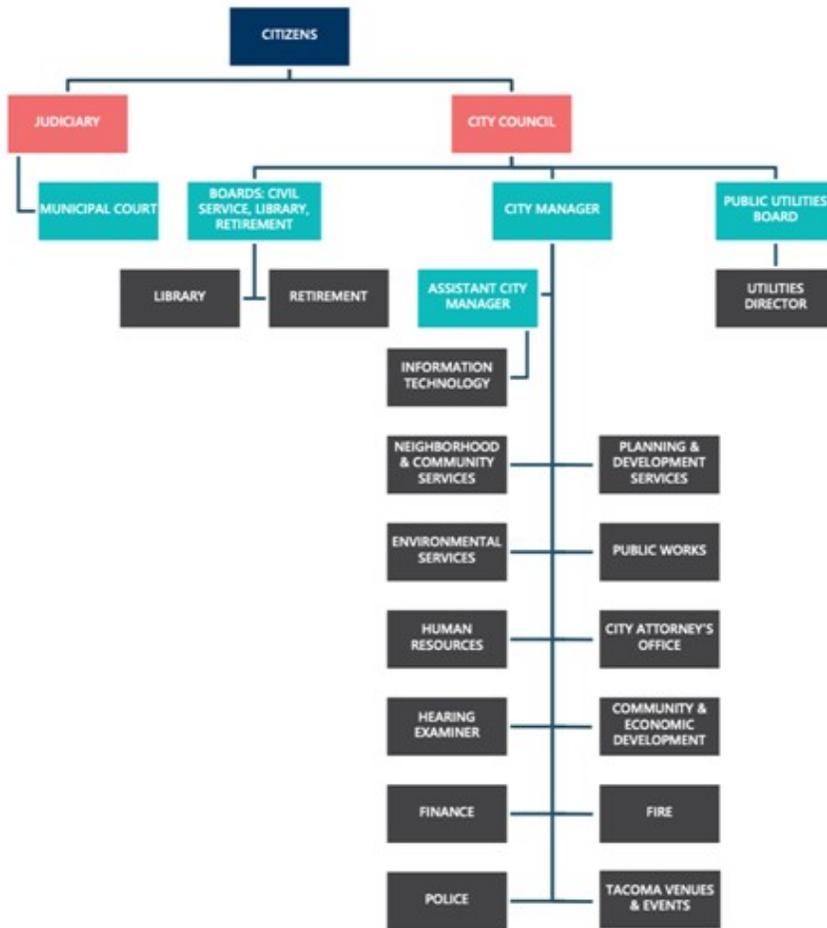
In 2018 the tax payers of the City of Tacoma payed Elizabeth Pauli \$253,739. That's \$122 per hour. Close to \$200 per Council meeting.

Two hundred fifty three thousand seven hundred dollars. Really let that number sink it. Over a quarter of a million dollars. That's five times the amount we pay our teachers.

How can a "public servant" take a quarter of a million dollars from her citizens, listen to us call out at the injustices committed by her police department, and then sit comfortably while doing nothing to address these concerns? This is disgusting. Do your job. I don't even know what to say anymore. Just do your damn job.

And in case you forgot how, here's your organization flow chart. Notice how the Council is right above the City Manager (and below THE CITIZENS?!). Every single one of you has the power to listen to us. Fire the officers involved in the murder of Manny Ellis. Introduce a resolution now.

# CITYWIDE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Courtney Stoker

Dist. 2

**From:** Adrianna Pettway <adriannapettwaykhan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:09 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Homelessness

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello my name is Adrianna Pettway and I wrote a letter about the homeless problem in our city. Thank you for taking the time to read it.

 [City Council letter](#)

Dear City Council

Hello, my name is Adrianna Pettway and I am part of the Puget Sound Summer Academic Challenge. This summer we are learning about the homelessness crisis in our country and what we can do to help out the homeless people in our state. I'm writing this letter to share a solution with you.

It's no surprise that homelessness is a problem in our city. Due to Covid-19, millions of people have lost their jobs and have not been able to afford rent, and we criminalize the homeless, this will make it worse. Tacoma has dealt with homelessness in both effective and ineffective ways. We have shelters and programs to help people get back on their feet. Yet shelters aren't compatible enough for every homeless person in Washington

Criminalizing homelessness by banning camping and not letting people sleep in their cars is not fixing the problem. After seeing what happened at People's Park I believe we need to stop just trying to fix homelessness but also prevent it. Why should we allow our neighbors to fall into situations where the only option they have left is to sleep in a freezing tent or on the sidewalk? I believe we can help out by building a stronger community.

The 2020 Homeless Point-In-Time results show that the main causes of homelessness are family crisis, no affordable housing, and domestic violence. It was also shown that many homeless people suffer from mental illness, physical disabilities, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, or a chronic illness. Each of these topics deserve a whole letter of their own but the main issue I want to focus on is the fact that we demonize the homeless. The Point-In-Time shows that the homeless are people who have fallen to circumstances outside of their control but many people are quick to blame the homeless for their situations. We also see that many of them are suffering from mental illness or disabilities but aren't able to get the help they need.

If we got rid of the stigma surrounding homelessness and realize that these people are our neighbors who are suffering I feel the community will be more willing to help out. If we have a stronger sense of community and feel more inclined to help each other this will not only help the homeless but prevent homelessness. Think about it, if we stop demonizing things like mental illness or substance abuse we can help people who are struggling and catch them before they fall into homelessness. If we have a stronger sense of community, victims of domestic violence will feel more confident to speak out and seek help and we can help people with learning disabilities instead of pushing them to the side and forgetting about them.

Of course because of Covid regular community events like potlucks aren't going to be possible and would pose a huge risk to everyone involved. However, we can still do things like continuing to donate to food drives. Then, once we do recover from the pandemic I think we should have community events that center around getting to know the homeless people in our city. For example a community potluck organized by the city where people can go out and simply ask the

homeless if they want to come and eat. This could be a fundraising event as well. While this won't solve every problem with homelessness it will build a stronger community and encourage people to reach out more so we can help prevent people from falling into homelessness.

Thank you,

Adrianna Pettway

**From:** Rio Shimizu <rshimizu1938@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:44 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** rschneider@pugetsound.edu; chrismoore@pugetsound.edu; samridhisingh@pugetsound.edu; separk@pugetsound.edu  
**Subject:** Homelessness in Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Tacoma City Council,

My name is Rio Shimizu and I am writing to you on behalf of high school students participating in the Summer Academic Challenge through the University of Puget Sound. During this program, we have learned a lot about the housing crisis and homelessness, including the causes, potential solutions, and connections between homelessness and social justice. Now, we are reaching out to you to propose solutions to Tacoma's homeless problem.

Homelessness is a major crisis in Tacoma. According to the annual Point in Time Count from the Washington State Department of Commerce, there were 1,486 homeless individuals in Pierce County last year, including 629 who were unsheltered.<sup>1</sup> This is unacceptable for a city like Tacoma that has the resources to significantly reduce this number by providing permanent supportive housing options. It is in our best interest to prioritize the needs of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness. We can no longer ignore the problem by relying on services that don't work. It's time for a real solution.

The Tacoma Municipal Code states in 8.12.180 that it is illegal "to camp upon any public property," and that "the purpose of TMC 8.12.180 is ... to continue to assist those currently experiencing homelessness" as they "transition to stable sheltering solutions."<sup>2</sup> First of all, how does criminalizing homelessness "assist" people who are homeless? Arresting people for not having a place to live is unnecessary and cruel. Not only will they be homeless, but their arrests will be on their criminal record, and will be an obstacle for them throughout their lives. Secondly, what are these "stable sheltering solutions"? Tacoma's current temporary sheltering options for homeless people include day and overnight shelters, but homeless shelters alone are not enough of a solution to end homelessness. Shelters are not a permanent housing solution for those experiencing homelessness. Instead, they provide temporary housing to support people as they transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Tacoma needs more permanent supportive housing options. In 2018, Tacoma developed and implemented the Affordable Housing Action Strategy to address the lack of affordable housing.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of the AHAS is to provide affordable housing to members of the community, which is a step in the right direction; however, there are still not enough permanent affordable housing units to serve Tacoma's entire homeless population.

Tacoma needs permanent supportive housing options that are accessible to all people who are currently homeless. Tiny houses are an affordable option for permanent housing, and they can be built within a small amount of time and space. In many cities, tiny house communities have significantly reduced the number of people experiencing homeless. In these communities, it is imperative that the residents are supported by on-site case managers and additional resources and services to help them adjust to safe housing and a new lifestyle.

We strongly advise that Tacoma strives to set a good example for other cities by prioritizing the needs of the homeless community. We urge you to decriminalize homelessness. Bans on sleeping in cars and parks are just a way to blame homeless people for being in a situation they did not choose to be in. Instead, Tacoma must increase funding for homelessness solutions and invest in permanent supportive housing such as tiny house communities.

Sincerely,

Rio Shimizu

Summer Academic Challenge

University of Puget Sound

Sources

1 <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/annual-point-time-count/#:~:text=Emergency%20Operations%20Center,-Annual%20Point%20in%20Time%20Count,sheltered%20and%20unsheltered%20homeless%20persons.&text=The%202020%20Point%20in%20Time,23>

2 <https://cms.cityoftacoma.org/cityclerk/Files/MunicipalCode/Title08-PublicSafety.PDF>

3 <https://www.cityofacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=148642>