

From: Rebecca Stith <rstithlaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:32 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: In support of 8/4/20 City Council Agenda items: Resolution 40636 and Ordinance 28685

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

As an engaged and concerned resident of the City of Tacoma, I write in strong support of the following items on tonight's City Council meeting agenda:

Resolution 40636

This Resolution expresses Tacoma's "support for those detained at the Northwest ICE Processing Center ("NWIPC") located in the City, who are unable to protect themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic while in detention [including calling for humane and public-health compliant practices at NWIPC and] for the systematic release under parole and bond of all those detained at the NWIPC, the end of transfers into and out of the NWIPC, and the suspension of business at the facility, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Passing this Resolution would be consistent with and amplify both the City's 2014 Equity and Empowerment Initiative and the City's 2018 Resolution 40196, in which Tacoma, "consistent with its long-standing commitment to human rights and in support of the humane and equitable treatment of all persons within its boundaries and throughout the country... affirm[ed] its support for the human rights of all persons, including immigrants and refugees who live, work, travel through, or seek services within its boundaries," with latter expressly referencing those detained at NWIPC (then known as the Northwest Detention Center).

The suffering of and risks to persons now incarcerated at NWIPC, because of both the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of a unified and effective public-health response by the federal government, are unconscionable. Thank you for recognizing their plight and seeking their conditional release.

Ordinance 28685

In December 2019, you passed Resolution 40508 to ensure that participation in Council meetings would be more inclusive and welcoming of all viewpoints. This Resolution changed the name of the public forum held during the second Council meeting of each month to "Community Forum" from "Citizens Forum," and the

word “citizen” in the City’s Rules of Procedure to either “resident” or “community member.”

Proposed Ordinance 28685 would dramatically further Tacoma’s commitment to hearing and honoring all voices by amending Section 1.06.075 of the Municipal Code to use this more inclusive wording, “Police Department Community Resident-Initiated Complaint Oversight,” and “Community’s Police Advisory Committee,” in place of the current, more limited, phrasing, which uses the word “Citizen.”

I strongly urge you to pass Resolution 40636 tonight and to pass Ordinance 28685 after its second reading.

Thank you,

Rebecca Stith

Tacoma resident

Member, Tacoma Human Services Commission

Former Commissioner and Chair, Tacoma Human Rights Commission

From: Ryan Grendon <ryangrendon@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:21 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Public Comment for August 4, 2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

As an educator in Tacoma who believes that the detention of immigrants causes irreparable harm to families, I am writing to express my full support of Tacoma City Council Resolution Number 40636. The city's tolerance of ICE operations is simply inexcusable. Thank you for considering the experiences, voices and concerns of the people.

-Ryan Grendon

Tacoma, WA 98405

From: Alyssa Urish <alyssaurish@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 2:35 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Adopt Resolution 40636

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Councilmembers,

I am writing to encourage you to vote in favor of Resolution40636 that provides increased scrutiny of the Northwest ICE Processing Center and protection for those detained by calling for their monitored release. We are in an unprecedented health crisis and have seen how those detained in close quarters are at an exponentially higher risk of contracting COVID-19. Especially at a time where cases are on the rise, it is imperative that ALL people in our County have the right to health and all recommended safety precautions. Please do not delay in adopting this resolution.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Urish

1617 S. M Street

Tacoma, WA 98405

From: Mckenna Johnson <mckenna.johnson11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:41 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: RES40636

Hello,

My name is Mckenna Johnson and I am a resident of Tacoma in District 1. I am writing to extend my support for Resolution RES40636. I am counting on my city to show concern for the health and wellbeing of the individuals inhumanely detained within our town in the midst of a pandemic.

Best,
Mckenna Johnson

From: Amy Franco <amy.franco27@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:17 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Public Comment: Resolution 40636

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council,

I am a Portland resident. As you know, undocumented people from across the Pacific Northwest and beyond, including Portland, are brought to NWIPC and held in the unsanitary and precarious conditions described in Resolution 40636. The presence and continued operation of NWIPC is a human rights issue of grave concern. I would like to express my full support for resolution 40636, particularly Section 5, which states: "The City calls for the systematic release under parole and bond of all those detained at the NWIPC, the end of transfers into and out of the NWIPC, and the suspension of business at the facility, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic"

I also urge the city council to consider further action in future to release detainees regardless of pandemic status. Thank you for your time and for beginning the work of addressing human rights for migrant populations in Tacoma and beyond.

-Amy Franco

From: Heather Finch <heatherr.finch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:01 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written Comment for City Council Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for resolution No. 40636.

I was shocked to learn that I live less than 10 minutes away from one of the largest detention centers in the United States. After reading stories from Rene Ruben Ramirez-Alatorre, Gabriela Parra Perez, Daniel Lopez Dejesus, and more about the conditions in the facility, I was horrified. People kept in the Northwest Detention Center are being exposed to dangerous chemicals, and subjected to racial injustice, and left without protection from COVID-19. They are held for extended periods of time, separated from their families, and often deported back to countries where their lives are at risk. This is unacceptable. Those seeking to immigrate to America should never be kept in such inhumane conditions or kept for so long. Nor should they be deported back to countries where they are not safe.

Tacoma City Council, please take a stand and advocate for safer conditions at the NWDC, and for the systematic release of those detained at the NWDC. Please vote in favor of resolution No. 40636.

Kindly,

Heather Finch

1902 S Yakima Ave,

Tacoma, WA 98405

From: Arisa Nogler <nogler.arisa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:59 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public comment for council meeting 8/4/20

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I'd like to submit the following written comment for tonight's council meeting, pertaining to RES40636.

I support RES40636. As a healthcare worker, I am concerned about the potentially devastating effects of COVID-19 on our detained community members. I find it unconscionable that we would consent to continue holding people in detention, where the risks of community spread are high, with only a hope and a prayer to protect them from illness and possibly death. I believe the City Council should go further, and commit to releasing all detainees at this facility so that they can shelter in place safely outside of confinement. I appreciate the work of La Resistencia and other groups who have been advocating for these folks, and support their message and demands to free them all. We enjoy the rhetoric of compassion, care, and community, and here is an opportunity to stand behind our words. Support RES40636, and further, please begin work towards releasing everyone held at NWDC before they contract COVID-19 on our watch. Thank you.

Arisa Nogler



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Warren, Bucoda
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:06 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment Received

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Elizabeth Nare called the City Council Officers asking that the prisoners being detailed at the Northwest Ice processing Center be released due to Covid-19. She left a phone number for the record with her statement. 253-564-8487

Bucoda Warren, MPA

He, Him, His

City Council Policy Assistant to

Deputy Mayor Blocker, and Council Members Hunter, Walker, and Hines

Mayor's Youth Commission Coordinator

City Managers Office

City of Tacoma, 747 Market Street, Room 1200

Tacoma, WA 98402 • Desk 253.594.7925 • Cell 253.341.8702

BWarren@cityoftacoma.org www.cityoftacoma.org

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For More Information on the COVID Response:

[Go to the Employee Information on COVID Response \(GNET\)](#)

From: oakschiller2 <oakschiller2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:45 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Manuel Ellis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Our city needs to do everything it can to get justice to Manuel Ellis. The officers responsible for his death need to be fired, and there needs to be a full investigation into what happened that day.

His family deserves justice, and our community deserves to live in a place where they don't have to fear the police.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Alexandria Alliouagana <alliouagana1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 2:24 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, I'm a concerned Tacoma resident who would like to make three comments.

1. Body cams for police are not good enough. The community demands the reallocation of police funding into community based services.
2. We demand justice for Manny Ellis and his family. Ellis was murdered by Tacoma police department and none of the officers have been held accountable.
3. The community is tired of hosting a concentration camp in the so called city of destiny. We demand the release of all those incarcerated in ICE detention center as well as in prisons.

Please take these comments with serious consideration. The world is rebuilding itself and we have a right to make our voices heard.

Many thanks!

From: Guion Rosenzweig <guionyork@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 2:05 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - City Council Meeting 08.04.2020

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello City Council Members,

Thank you for your time.

As always, I reiterate my requests to call for a vote to have the officers involved in the murder of Manuel Ellis fired. City Manager Pauli will only call for this to happen if a vote from Council occurs in favor. Every moment that goes by without action or comment from anyone at the city is a further tragedy for his family and for our city.

In a recent article from KIRO, it was stated that cuts to housing and equity services are potential on the horizon to counteract deficit issues. As KIRO states, "Executive leadership at the city, made up of members from City Manager Elizabeth Pauli's office, various department directors and assistant directors, decided earlier this year to end the contract with two federal agencies, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), in light of a \$67 million budget deficit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cuts were proposed due to the cost to operate the programs, which exceeded the amount of reimbursement the city received through its contracts with the federal agencies, city staff said."

Given the current climate of our times, it seems unthinkable that we would be considering cutting social services instead of in other places. As may be evident by now, I truly believe in community services and their impact on the need for police.

Without getting into my whole life story, after Univ of Puget Sound, I spent a few years living/working in Europe (after which I came right back to my beloved Tacoma). Europe is NOT perfect, but their relationship between social services and enforcement is very different than here. It showed me an actual model where this works. It isn't something I have imagined or dreamed up in some progressive thought exercise. We aren't Europe, nor are our taxes and spending set up in that governmental manner; however, we can take lessons from areas where more community services and less police is a proven model.

If truly the way these programs are set out is not feasible, then consider a replacement rather than a pure cut. Could we do this as a city rather than with federal administration? Local action? If these programs are simply not managed correctly or we do not allocate enough community funds to run them, then consider a re-evaluation rather than a pure cut.

\$175M goes to police from our General Fund. Included in that are apparently 2 Bearcat vehicles which total almost a million dollars. Could we potentially sell these vehicles and re-allocate that money? What other money could be reallocated to social services from police? Are bearcats in our streets really the type of policing any of us imagined? Could those funds not be better spent? This is just \$1M of 175M. What else is not really needed that we provide our police with that might be better allocated?

There are just so many things to consider in where you shave spending. We have a budget deficit that can't be ignored. However, where that money is taken is not a decision to be taken lightly. Y'all are also in a tough position, I do absolutely respect that. This can't be easy to have so much of the world changing at once while leading our city. These are times that will be talked about in the history books. What gets written is up to each and every one of us living through this time right now.

The plea from this private resident is to please consider where these cuts come from. Further cutting housing services to the city will only result in more of our citizens being out on the street which can lead to many other issues. Then comes the justification for

more police as we have more people on the streets and in dire straights. The cycle just grows. This private resident wonders where it stops. When does the burden stop going onto the backs of those who already carry so much?

As always, I thank you for your time. I hope we will be able to make virtual public comment again soon as it is nice to provide more than just words on a page.

Kind regards,
Guion, North Slope Tacoma

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:11 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: FW: Letter regarding white City Council members' silence on July 14, 2020
Attachments: Letter to the City Council white people 8.4.2020.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Doris, I had your e-mail address incorrect in the first e-mail.

Sally

Sally Perkins
Practical Solutions
PO Box 5366
Tacoma, WA 98415-0366
Phone: 253 525 3020 {NOTE NEW WORK PHONE NUMBER}
sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:07 PM
To: 'chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org' <chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org>; 'lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org' <lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org>; 'catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org' <catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org>; 'Walker, Kristina' <Kristina.Walker@cityoftacoma.org>; 'Conor.McCarthy@ci.tacoma.wa.us' <Conor.McCarthy@ci.tacoma.wa.us>; 'robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org' <robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org>; 'john.hines@cityoftacoma.org' <john.hines@cityoftacoma.org>
Cc: 'Woodards, Victoria' <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>; 'Keith Blocker' <keith.blocker@ci.tacoma.wa.us>; 'Pauli, Elizabeth' <elizabeth.pauli@cityoftacoma.org>; 'city.clerk@cityoftacoma.org' <city.clerk@cityoftacoma.org>
Subject: Letter regarding white City Council members' silence on July 14, 2020

Dear Mayor and City Council members, my letter (attached) is written to the white members of the City Council with regard to your silence at the July 14 City Council meeting, in light of the testimony during Community Forum.

I am cc-ing the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Manager as an FYI courtesy.

I am cc-ing Doris Sorum, City Clerk, so that this letter can be classified as public testimony.

Thank you.

Sally

Sally Perkins
1419 S Sheridan Avenue
Tacoma (Hilltop)
District 3
sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

Letter to the City Council.

Dear white City Council members (Beale, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker),

I have spent a lot of time thinking about this letter and what would be most productive to say.

I listened to the entirety of Community Forum (July 14) with both excitement and dismay.

Excitement for the many young voices, who waited patiently on the line until it was their turn to speak, and who brought passion and clarity in their questions of you and their concerns...

...and dismay for your silence.

I understand that Community Forum is not a place for back-and-forth between community members and Council members.

But Council members have a built-in opportunity to make their own comments at the end of the meeting and none of you chose to do that.

So my question to each of you is, **why did you not say something to the 30+ people who took the time to organize their statements and to speak? Why did you not speak to the community as a whole?**

In a public forum, silence from leaders is a troublesome thing. Silence is troublesome because it creates a vacuum, a vacuum of no information. Silence, left unattended for very long, invites speculation. Given silence, people will fill it with their own interpretations and narratives. Usually those interpretations and narratives are far worse than the actual situation. And...those interpretations and narratives are shared, take hold, and almost always make the situation worse.

So I am not going to speculate here on the reasons for your silence.

I am going to urge you to re-think your silence, and pose the following questions for your reflection:

- The City of Tacoma has been actively working on racism and equity for several years now. In that context, how is it possible that City Council members are not prepared to speak sensitively and skillfully to the issues in our own City?
- If the City's "liability" is a concern, then please consider that insurance-company liability is about fear and money. Interestingly (and not coincidentally), racism too (for 400 years of American history) is about fear and money. In 2020, is that really where you

want to be?

- If you feel that the voices of your Black colleagues should be centered (fair enough), then why weren't you willing to demonstrate at a City Council meeting that you have their backs? Instead you force them to have your backs. How is this helpful?

As a white person, I appreciate the complexities of discussing racism and equity, when white people have created and sustained (often unthinkingly) the policies and processes that allow structural racism to flourish. It is past time for white people to participate actively in anti-racist work, both for our own individual understanding and growth, and for the health and safety of our beautifully diverse City.

Please, no more silence.

Sally Perkins

Sally Perkins
1419 S Sheridan Avenue
Tacoma (Hilltop)
District 3

From: Teela R <teelathevegan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 10:31 AM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: police murdered our neighbor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

It's past time for the City Council to hold Tacoma Police accountable for the recent murders they have committed in our community. City council should vote for Elizabeth Pauli to fire the officers involved in the murders of Manuel Ellis and Bennie Branch.

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

Clearly Tacoma Police do not keep our community safe. In addition to bringing justice for Manny Ellis and Bennie Branch Council must work towards defunding the police. We need community based safety that ensure all Tacoma residents are safe from harm- and even murder- by an department that functions with impunity.

--teela royset

From: Trevor Kagochi <tkagochi@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:02 AM
To: Julia Matias; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written Comments for 8/4/2020 council meeting & study session: City Manager Update on System Transformation Work Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Written comments for 8/4/2020 city council study session AND city council meeting.

Briefing item: 20-0475: City Manager Update on System Transformation Work Plan

To madam mayor and city council members. Our names are Trevor Kagochi and Julia Kagochi. We live in district 3 in the Hilltop community.

We are writing these comments after having listened to your 7/28/2020 study session and council meeting. We are interested in the anti-racism directives that City Manager Elizabeth Pauli used to create the organizational transformation work plan.

Anti-racism work is focused on undoing systemic racism. By definition it also needs to be unapologetically centered on the experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and how they are impacted by City of Tacoma's systems and policies.

COMMUNITY VISION & OUTCOMES

It would really strengthen your position if you clearly articulated WHY this work is important and essential to building a vibrant Tacoma for our BIPOC community.

The community has a vision and outcomes of what they want to see. It has been calling for justice for Manny Ellis and the firing of the 4 officers involved. The community has been demanding access to affordable housing and for the city to shut down the "processing" center that holds undocumented folks, primarily people of color. How does this anti-racism work begin to dress and address these gaping wounds that disproportionately affect our BIPOC community?

What are your vision and outcomes for the community? Paint a picture of what you want to accomplish. How will the way that COT serves our community, especially marginalized communities of color, change as a result of doing this anti-racism work? How will you measure the impact of centering anti-racism work both internally (in the organization) and externally (in the community)? How can you use common vision and outcomes to rally people and already invested community organizations into partnering in this work?

Finally, anti-racism work requires holding systems and people accountable. When this anti-racism work is implemented, how do we ensure that we center and uplift the community rather than the systems? Given the current demand for justice for Manny Ellis, it's clear that the system of policing is being protected and centered, rather

than the community voices that have been tragically impacted and harmed. Having a clear vision and outcomes are not enough. Having a plan that looks thorough and good on paper is not enough. In the end it is the impact of COT on our BIPOC community that your success will be measured by. How will you prove your ability and commitment to uprooting racist systems and fully embrace anti-racism work in Tacoma?

COMMUNICATION

After watching the council meeting on 7/28/2020, We agree that it would be beneficial that City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provide a report regularly on the process and how it is moving us towards a shared vision.

We suggest having an external facing document such as a simplified visual in your zoom council meetings since the primary work plan document seems to live in the study sessions. This would serve as a road map/timeline to show where you are in the transformational process AND police reform process as well as where/when you would be seeking community input.

Thank you for taking the time to read our joint comments.

Sincerely,
Julia & Trevor Kagochi