August 25, 2020

Dear City Council:

I am writing to ask you to please support the feasibility study request at the August 25th 2020 City Council meeting for accessible taxis. This is the first step in a long process to bring accessible taxis to Tacoma. Cindi Laws, who will conduct the feasibility study is the perfect choice as she brings extensive experience to the project from King County. The Commission has been working to bring accessible taxis to Tacoma for over a decade. This is a milestone in the decade plus journey we have been on. I want to thank Councilmember Blocker for his leadership in bringing us to this point together. I hope we can celebrate accessible taxis in Tacoma soon.

Kind Regards,

Luke Byram
Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities
Commissioner
he/him pronouns
Council Members:

Regarding RES 40641 Tax exemption for multi family apartment 3617 McKinley Avenue. I realize the importance of building more affordable housing. And using tax exemption as a incentive in Tacoma. But at what cost to citizens health, mental health? City of Tacoma continues to encourage contractors to build multi family family housing, but continues to disregard the health and safety of neighborhoods effected by the development.

Development of Grand Pacific Apartments has affected the surrounding neighborhoods and continues to effect us. All the issues we had had to deal with, place those same issues in a smaller area like 3617 McKinley Avenue. How would anyone of the council members feel listening to construction at 8:45pm. Or dust blowing into your back yard.

Tax incentives being used for development at the cost of citizens health can not be continued. Please consider no more development until “Construction Ordinances” are updated and approve.

Sincerely Paul Chromey Safe Streets Volunteer
Tacoma City Clerk,

Please add on record the addition to my comments from week 8.11.2020 regarding the concerns of large events and gatherings in public parks.

Attached are additional photos from two large gatherings at two public parks in South Tacoma this past weekend.

Below are photos of a food truck and bouncy house party at Wapato Hills Park, and a party at Manitou Park both on Saturday 8:22.20.

I met with two Metroparks directors last week and the directors attended our STNC General meeting last Wednesday outlining plans for addressing the behaviors. No response again this weekend.

I have expressed the concern of the spread of the corona virus through the activities for more than 6 weeks with no compliance to the phase 2 Safestart proclamation, yet MPT posted notices on their Facebook page last Friday, regarding immediate action closing part of the Ruston walking area due to a baby seal on the beach on Ruston way!

Still no collaboration between Metroparks, the City of Tacoma, and PCHD.

Reckless behavior continues to spread and infect others, businesses struggle under strict guidelines and fines, and children are unable to attend school in person.

Where are the priorities? Where is the concern and compassion for the health & well-being of Tacoma residents?

Respectfully,

Venus Dergan
Manitou Resident and Representative
South Tacoma Neighborhood Council

Manitou Park 8.22.2020
Good morning, Mayor Woodards, and City Council, and TPD.

I wanted to pass on some policing I saw in my South Tacoma neighborhood.

A few days ago I walked out of my front gate to see a young Black man standing on a public sidewalk in front of the Catholic Church, talking on his cell phone. Two squad cars were pulling up. (Presumably, one of my neighbors called the cops on him). I got out my phone to record the incident, just in case.

Luckily, it was a good day for Tacoma Policing. The two cops, one male, one female got out of their cars. The man told them he'd been a passenger in a car with an erratic driver, had demanded to be let out of the car, and was now stranded in a strange city. The male officer laughed with the guy at the story, and then talked him through where to catch the bus to connect to an Amtrak or Greyhound. The cops left. The man walked towards 72nd.

Ad a corollary, two years ago, as I was sitting in my front garden, two cars pulled up next to each other on the same corner, and soon, 6 shots were fired out of one car, and both cars drove off. Some neighbors that were long term residents told us it wasn't worth it to call the police, as they won't come unless there was a body left behind.

So, I have to question the priorities of a precinct that won't respond to gunshots (presumably an actual crime in progress), but will respond to a call from a neighbor (the four houses around that corner are all white residents) about a black man doing nothing, and send two patrol cars.

So, I guess I'm lost somewhere between is this an email about good policing? Or is this an email about racially biased policing that just happened to end well this time?

And, what can the City of Tacoma do, policy-wise, to put stricter penalties on neighbors who are calling the cops out on our Black and Brown neighbors who have every right to walk through our neighborhoods without meriting a police response? In the more important sense, one of my neighbors decided to put that man's life in the potential danger of a police encounter, which should have consequences. If the way we stop this is based on financial reasoning, rather than value of a human life and dignity one, why are we allowing taxpayer money to be wasted by sending police out at the beck and call of these "neighborhood watch" residents...I don't have good answers today, but I'd love to see a conversation at the city government level.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Wilkie
6842 S Park Avenue
Council,

I don’t understand where everyone got the idea that we are asking for more ‘back and forth’ time with the Council. That’s not what we’re asking for. We’re just asking for time to speak at all. It’s incredibly frustrating to sit here week in and week out listening to y’all debate things that we aren’t even asking for. I understand that the digital communication barrier makes it difficult to understand all the nuance in our requests, but that’s all the more reason to give us additional time.

The Pierce County Council opens their meetings for public comment on every single line item of the agenda before they vote, in additional to a 3-minute public forum every single week. If they can manage it for 800,000 constituents I’m having a hard time comprehending how Tacoma can’t for our 200,000.

I’d highly recommend reaching out to Pierce County Councilmembers Derek Young, Marty Campbell, or even Chair Doug Richardson for processes and procedures to make this happen. Writing endless comments into a black box is a disheartening avenue for holding our elected officials accountable, and a woeful attempt at democracy.

I’d also like to take a second to point out the absurdity of directing us to your emails as the only avenue of comment and then complaining about the unmanageable number of emails...

Thank you for your time,
Courtney Stoker
Dist. 2
208.407.4365