

## Jenkins, Jessica

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**From:** Megan Capes <capesmegan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Community Forum Comment

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

Good evening Mayor and Council,

My name is Megan Capes, and I am a public school Social Studies educator and one of the co-chairs of Tacoma Democratic Socialists of America. I'm writing in support of the proposal of establishing an additional warming shelter at Norpoint Community Center.

Our organization alongside other housing justice organizations like the Tacoma - Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness and Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee have been responding to the homelessness and housing crises. Before COVID-19, these were already issues, and the pandemic has only increased the stress due to lack of options and resources.

**Our community needs options to build alternative shelter, like this Norpoint proposal.** The space is currently vacant and has the ability to house and offer showers to people in need.... why not put it to use? Why not put it to use so that people experiencing homelessness this winter so that no more people die of exposure this winter?

**This proposal builds shelter capacity currently where there is no resources.** Residents opposed to this project will use this point to back up their points, but **in actuality there are people falling into homeless each year with zero resources in their community.** According to Gerrit Nyland, the data expert with the Coalition, 25 people a year enter homelessness from 98422. Additionally, 190 people leave the zip codes surrounding Northeast Tacoma for homelessness services. If we do not serve people in their community, they will continue to most likely be funneled to homelessness resource hubs (like Hilltop/Downtown Tacoma) or face unsheltered homelessness (i.e. tent or car-camping) without access to basic needs resources. **It is a major issue that this project would be a step in a positive direction.**

The City of Tacoma & Metro Parks have been committed to priorities around equity. **Metro Parks should be a leader in serving equity in our community at their facilities.** It is clear there are several portions of our population underserved, but also publicly-owned resources not currently in-use due to COVID-19 shutdown that could be put to use to care for our most marginalized residents. Yes, **Northeast is geographically distant from the rest of Tacoma, but we are all part of Tacoma and need to help those in need.**

Our community is facing a multitude of issues right now and working diligently to discern and make decisions to move us in a proactive direction forward to care for our community. I appreciate Metro Parks & City of Tacoma staff and leadership who put this Norpoint proposal forward as a solution to do just that. I highly recommend taking all these points into consideration as y'all make this decision.

We desperately needed more shelter beds. Please move forward with this proposal to prevent the harm and deaths of our most vulnerable residents.

If you have any questions about my comments, feel free to email me directly at [chair@tacomadsa.org](mailto:chair@tacomadsa.org). If you have any questions about the data quoted above and would like to talk more about that, please connect with Gerrit Nyland at [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org).

Thank you for your time, and again, please support this proposal.

In solidarity,

Megan Capes (she/her/hers)  
Tacoma DSA co-chair

## Jenkins, Jessica

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**From:** Ken Woomer <ken.woomer@csi-connect.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Norpoint Center

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I have several issues with the Norpoint Center becoming a temporary warming center. Most of these issues were brought up last night on the Zoom call.

1. We already lack the services in our neighborhood adding this homeless shelter would only make it worse. Lack of Police patrol and response time is horrible. We have 2 fire departments and they are volunteer only. No busing, no medical services.
2. Schools and Gyms are starting to reopen let the community use the Norpoint Center for it's intended use a work out facility to promote good health for the tax payer.
3. This area isn't a good fit neither is the center there are better alternatives that were brought up last night. Pierce County Jail, Tacoma Dome.
4. You have Senior living across the street from the center and they use the side walks right in front of the Center besides the center when it's open don't put them in harms way.
5. I would put more down but I just received the email from Shon from Metro Parks and I know I only had a 20 minute advanced notice to get something inn writing. I will end on the note that over 90% of the neighborhood is against this idea. It's time to look for another building.

**Ken Woomer** | President  
phone 253-833-6211 x2350 | direct fax 253-561-0750 | Ken.Woomer@csi-connect.com  
Competition Specialties, Inc. | 2402 W Valley Hwy N | Auburn, WA 98001

## Jenkins, Jessica

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**From:** Kari Dahlstrom <kiki2010@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Norpoint Center proposed as homeless shelter

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

To whom it may concern,

My understanding is that the center was closed due to concerns around COVID. Now that other gyms are able to open up, it should be reopened for its original purpose. I also understand that members were not refunded for dues paid during the time they were not able to use the facility.

If it is indeed not able to be reopened to the community members who live here and pay for facilitate usage, it should remain closed. There will be heightened risk of COVID transmission if it were opened to shelter homeless people transported in from other neighborhoods. If it's not safe to open for one purpose, then it's not safe to open for an alternative, more risky purpose, especially one that comes with heightened risk for COVID transmission.

In addition, we have not seen any proof that if it were opened as a homeless shelter there would be adequate supervision or security. The proximity to schools, elderly housing, and neighborhood residents makes the center an inappropriate option to house homeless people shipped in from other locations.

While I believe that those unfortunate to not have a place to live do deserve support, that support should be provided in an area that includes other nearby services such as access to food, access to transportation, access to healthcare, etc. Norpoint offers none of these additional critical services.

In addition, this area is one of the highest tax paying neighborhoods. The Center is one rare service we as a neighborhood have (which we still pay additional fees to use). We pay more than our share of taxes, yet receive very few services and amenities in return.

The manner which this proposal has been communicated and executed thus far is extremely lacking. On 1/11/21, the Park Board still had no information about what was proposed for the center which they own. They had no idea if it was to be nightly or 24-hours, etc.

Please consider the major concerns of citizens who pay a tremendous amount in taxes and would be put at risk by locating a population with unsafe practices in this location.

Thank you  
Kari Dahlstrom

**Jenkins, Jessica**

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**From:** Kit Burns <kburns.wcb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Woodards, Victoria; McCarthy, Conor  
**Subject:** Citizen Forum - Jan 12, 2021 - Increasing Water and Power Rates - AMI Meters

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Dear Mayor Woodards,

I looked at my water bill for the past two years on the TPU website.

2019

\$302.96 is the total bill. My bill for water was \$6.11 for the entire year.

2020

\$308.47 is the total bill. My bill for water was \$9.37 for the entire year.

Based on the proposed TPU budget the new water meter that I am getting and 107,000 other citizens, my new meter is going to cost \$271.03.

Adding interest for 20 years at 5% is an additional \$158.25. After 20 years new meters will be needed.

\$429.28 for a meter that I don't need. It will drive up the cost of water for me and everyone in the City. Electric Meters will drive rates up further.

I would like to have a Meeting with you and the Public Utility Board to discuss this issue. I have researched it and it appears that this will be a financial loss that we cannot afford.

TPU needs to give a full accounting of the financial analysis and show that this will be a benefit to the community. I can't make the numbers work. It is a significant loss and will increase our rates year after year.

Sincerely,

Kit Burns  
Hilltop

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PO Box 2341  
Tacoma, WA 98401

... "the world reveals itself to those who travel on foot" . . . . .