

**From:** Carolyn Read <carolyn.engineer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 3:35 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma's City Council Resolution 28747 re: 1/10th of 1% housing tax, meeting Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021

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

Dear City Council and Mayor Woodard

I represent St Leo's Homelessness work group. We have been actively advocating for the passing of this tax at the county level since January. We had over 300 citizens sign a petition requesting that the county approve the 1/10 of 1% housing tax. If this money was available county wide, it could be leveraged over 10 years and pay for ALL needed supportive Housing.

Solving homelessness is not rocket science. This can be done as long as the leadership and citizens of this fine city and county decide that this is important and worthy of accomplishing.

As you know, having people on the street is more costly than providing them with wrap-around services in supportive housing. Especially when you consider the cost of an ER room and the time of first responders. Our housing inventory is low and our housing problem won't be solved without building it up.

Since the county is not entertaining this tax at this time, I urge you, the City, to provide the leadership needed to get sustainable funding in place so that we can solve Homelessness. I also urge you to continue to work with, and encourage the County to find regional solutions.... you can't do this in a vacuum.

We need a regional plan with goals, accountability of who's doing what, effective use of funds, and client satisfaction.

Many regards and thank you for all you do.

Carolyn

**From:** Nancy Lee Farrell <nfarrellwa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 5:02 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Am totally in favor of the tax to help the unsheltered!!!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Nancy Farrell

4005 N. 24th St.

Tacoma, WA 98406

**From:** Sorum, Doris  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** Jenkins, Jessica; City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Ordinance 28747  
**Attachments:** Tacoma City Council re Housing Tax 3-22-21.pdf

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

Doris Sorum  
City Clerk  
253-591-5361  
[dsorum@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:dsorum@cityoftacoma.org)

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**From:** Cynthia Stewart <stewdahl@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 3:54 PM  
**To:** Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Beale, Chris <chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org>; McCarthy, Conor <Conor.McCarthy@cityoftacoma.org>; Hines, John <John.Hines@cityoftacoma.org>; Blocker, Keith <Keith.Blocker@cityoftacoma.org>; Walker, Kristina <Kristina.Walker@cityoftacoma.org>; Hunter, Lillian <lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org>; Thoms, Robert <robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org>; Woodards, Victoria <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Cc:** Pauli, Elizabeth <elizabeth.pauli@cityoftacoma.org>; Robinson, Jeff <jrobinson@cityoftacoma.org>; Myers, Rosheida <rmyers@cityoftacoma.org>; Sorum, Doris <DSORUM@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance 28747

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members:

We are not available to attend your Council meeting tomorrow so wanted to provide these comments about Proposed Ordinance 28747, regarding the local option housing tax, in writing. We urge you to adopt the ordinance and implement the tax for the many reasons stated in our letter.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Stewart, President

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County



March 22, 2021

The Honorable Victoria Woodards, Mayor  
and Members, Tacoma City Council  
Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Re: Proposed Ordinance 28747, relating to Local Option Taxes

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council Members:

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County strongly supports Proposed Ordinance 28747, which would implement the 1/10 of one percent local option sales tax for affordable housing. Having worked hard on getting the legislation that allows this action to be taken council manically, we urge you to adopt the tax now. We are submitting these comments in writing because we are unable to attend your meeting tomorrow to speak in person.

The need for housing for people at 60% AMI and below, and particularly for supportive housing - for which there is virtually no other funding source - is greater than ever. The gap between wages and housing costs continues to rise and the dearth of affordable units for low income people is dramatic. This tax can raise enough money annually to bond for construction and still have funding available for operations and maintenance, particularly when combined with other state, federal and local funds.

While there are concerns about the regressivity of our current tax structure and the effect this proposed tax would have to exacerbate that, it is important to acknowledge how small the impact will be on purchasers. The one penny per \$10 purchase will hardly be noticed by consumers. Additionally, the funds generated will assist those at the bottom of the income spectrum with the most need, so it creates a bit more balance than the usual regressive tax.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style. The signature is placed over a light blue rectangular background that has some faint, illegible text on it.

Cynthia Stewart, President

**From:** jo davies <mjadavies@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28747

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

We can't afford not to do this; not when there are hundreds of people sleeping in tents in residential neighborhoods and doorways of businesses. And the situation is not improving. I recognize that this is not a homogenous group: some are situationally down on their luck, some are chronically homeless, there's addiction and mental illness but most have one thing in common - safe, secure shelter is a first step to moving forward in life.

If, by adding this tax, the City can provide a variety of shelter units in the near term and long-term that would be ideal. If we can provide local employment to create them, that would be the best of all possible worlds. I envision short-term transitional housing (pallet houses, TEMS, etc) to in order to alleviate tent encampments in residential and business neighborhoods, supportive housing for mentally ill and addiction recovery, and accessible housing for low-income households.

I say, "go for it."

jo davies  
809 South J St.  
253-307-5147

**From:** Harding, Melanie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FW: Additional Coalition Email: FW: Ordinance 28747

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

Public Comment

Melanie Harding  
City of Tacoma, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor  
Office: 253-591-5156 | Cell: 253-777-8692  
Pronouns: she, her, hers

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**From:** Stewart, Linda <lstewart@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** Pauli, Elizabeth <elizabeth.pauli@cityoftacoma.org>; Wille, Tadd <tadd.wille@cityoftacoma.org>; Robinson, Jeff <jrobinson@cityoftacoma.org>; Harding, Melanie <melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Subject:** Additional Coalition Email: FW: Ordinance 28747

From the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness Winter Shelter Coordinator.

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**From:** Kevin Glackin-Coley <kglackincoley@pchomeless.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>; Hines, John <John.Hines@cityoftacoma.org>; Thoms, Robert <robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org>; Blocker, Keith <Keith.Blocker@cityoftacoma.org>; Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Beale, Chris <chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org>; Hunter, Lillian <lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org>; McCarthy, Conor <Conor.McCarthy@cityoftacoma.org>; Walker, Kristina <Kristina.Walker@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Cc:** Stewart, Linda <lstewart@cityoftacoma.org>; Maureen Howard <mhoward@pchomeless.org>; Gerrit Nyland <gnyland@pchomeless.org>  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28747

Good Afternoon,

I came to Tacoma in 1984 to work at the original Nativity House at 13th and Commerce. As a brash 25-year-old I thought we could end homelessness, which was then still a relatively new reality across the country. In 1989, Bill Bichsel and I started the Tacoma Catholic Worker (Guadalupe House) in response to the number of people living in their vehicles on G Street. Again, I thought we could end homelessness if we acted collectively.

It is now more than 30 years later and far from ending homelessness we have seen it continue to grow, People are still living in their vehicles on G Street, as well as in tents along the sidewalk as they are in other neighborhoods throughout the City.

And yet, I still believe we can end homelessness. The Tacoma-Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness recently set an ambitious goal of ending street homelessness in Pierce County by November 1, 2021 as a first step towards ending homelessness throughout the City and County. Having enough safe housing options is a key component in our ability to make this long-term goal a reality. I encourage you to enact Ordinance 28747 so that as a community we can at long last end homelessness in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** Harding, Melanie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FW: Ordinance 28747  
**Attachments:** TPCCEH Letter to Mayor & Council on Affordable Housing Sales Tax 2.6.2021 .pdf

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Harding  
City of Tacoma, Chief Policy Analyst to the Mayor  
Office: 253-591-5156 | Cell: 253-777-8692  
Pronouns: she, her, hers

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**From:** Maureen Howard <mhoward@pchomeless.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria <victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org>; Hines, John <John.Hines@cityoftacoma.org>; +robert.thoms@cityoftacoma.org; Blocker, Keith <Keith.Blocker@cityoftacoma.org>; +catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org; Beale, Chris <chris.beale@cityoftacoma.org>; +lillian.hunter@cityoftacoma.org; McCarthy, Conor <Conor.McCarthy@cityoftacoma.org>; +kristina.walker@cityoftacoma.org  
**Cc:** Gerrit Nyland <gnyland@pchomeless.org>; Kevin Glackin-Coley <kglackincoley@pchomeless.org>; Harding, Melanie <melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org>; Stewart, Linda <lstewart@cityoftacoma.org>; Robinson, Jeff <jrobinson@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28747

Good afternoon,

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, sent the attached letter earlier this month. The weather is better now and Bethlehem Baptist Shelter has re-opened but the need is greater. Now the calls come to my personal phone and the requests to my email. I imagine they come to yours as well.

We can do this - we can end homelessness.

We know you are committed to ending homelessness and understand that housing is how we actually help make that happen.

If you have any questions, or reservations, about how important passing Ordinance No. 28747 is, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Maureen

Maureen Howard  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness  
3320 S. 8th St.  
Tacoma, WA 98405

Tel. 253-756-8146 LL  
253-255-2200 cell

**Living in Tacoma or Pierce County and Behind on rent?**  
[Rental Assistance | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)

"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I'm changing the things I cannot accept." Angela Davis

"Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, Necessary trouble." John Lewis



## Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

January 6, 2021

Mayor Victoria Woodards,  
Members of the Tacoma City Council

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, understand that you are considering raising the sales tax by 1/10th of one percent to generate revenue for housing and services that meet the needs of those most vulnerable in our community. Thank you.

As I write this letter on behalf of the Coalition, the wind is blowing and the coming week's weather forecast is for lows in the mid-20's and a 50% chance of snow by the end of the week. Bethlehem Baptist Family Shelter closed on two days' notice yesterday. The City's two warming centers are scheduled to close February 28. The virus continues to make non-congregate shelter the only safe option and we find ourselves with only a minimal hotel voucher program. Everyone is tired; everyone is scared.

We set out determined that no one experiencing homelessness would die this winter. We were not even into winter when unsheltered people began to die. In partnership with Mayor Woodards, we've held two Safe Shelter Summits and have commitments and new partnerships we hadn't imagined possible. But it is housing that solves homelessness. Safe, decent, permanent, appropriate, affordable to real people at their real incomes housing.

Increasing the sales tax by 1/10th of one percent won't solve all homelessness but it will provide something we don't have now - new local money for new affordable housing units and needed support services every single year. This new money will solve the homelessness of some of our unsheltered neighbors. People become homeless for many reasons but they come out of homelessness one-by-one into housing. Quite simply, housing saves lives: no matter their troubles, no matter their needs.

Your consideration to use your authority to increase the sales tax by 1/10th of one percent for affordable housing gives us hope. Thank you.

We commit to helping you in anyway we can.

For the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness,

Maureen Howard

Senior Policy Analyst  
Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness  
[mhoward@pchomeless.org](mailto:mhoward@pchomeless.org)

**From:** Nathan Schumer <nss2108@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:04 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28747

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

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Hello!

I am writing to advocate in favor of this sales tax increase to build more affordable housing. Rents are too high, and we need more housing fast. I love this, please increase sales tax to build more housing now.

Nathan Schumer, District 1

**From:** Rachel Kunze Wilkie <RachelleAnnKunze@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 7:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria  
**Subject:** Recall Sheriff Troyer

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

Dear Mayor Woodards, City Council,

I want to ask for a recall of Sheriff Troyer, over his incident of racial profiling and harassment while off duty of Mr. Atheimer, leading to the improper use of 911 and police services responding to a false claim that Troyer had threatened him.

I was unhappy with my choices for Pierce County Sheriff this past election cycle. I chose the write-in candidate, because either choice seemed to uphold "business as usual" policing.

I do not want Sheriff Troyer "serving" on behalf of me, since it's clear that his unconscious biases, or outright racism, leave him unfit to do his job properly for all of Tacoma.

Rachel Wilkie  
6842 S Park

**From:** Edna Dyke <ednadorothy@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 1:44 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** hazardous pay

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

I think all grocery store workers deserve hazardous pay as we deal with customers all day. We do not know if any of our customers had or have been diagnosed with Covid 19. We have to go to work everyday and stock the store shelves. We have to make sure that items are on the shelves for our customers to purchase.

Kroger has made billions of dollars in profit during this ordeal. They do not think that their employees do not need hazardous pay and if we did not go to work they would not be making any profits.

Thanks,

Edna Dyke

**From:** Kirsten Liane <kirstenliane77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Vaccinations for restaurant workers

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

It cannot be disputed that no industry has been more damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic than the restaurant and hospitality industry. We are currently operating at 25% capacity and will soon double that to 50%. While it is also undisputed that grocery and transportation workers are essential, they have almost zero repeated and prolonged contact with the unmasked public, unlike restaurant workers who are continually exposed to such people by the very nature of how our businesses are patronized. By expanding our exposure, yet excluding our workers in the next vaccine phase, you are telling us yet again that you want us to survive as businesses (maybe) but don't really care about us as individuals. One more time for the back of the room- no one has to take off their mask in a grocery store but they do in a restaurant. Put us in the same vaccine eligibility as grocery store and transportation workers.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Sorton, Carolyn A <carolyn.sorton@stores.fredmeyer.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 4:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** hazard pay

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

Good morning,

I work for Fred Meyer in Tacoma. As we all know, this last year has been unimaginable with the pandemic and all. I am writing to you, as I'm sure many have, to say it would be really helpful if we could get the hazard pay I believe we all deserve. Most of the world shut down when the pandemic started, but nothing changed for us grocery workers. It remained business as usual, but we were drenched in fear. Grateful to still have a job, but again, working in such uncertainty really took it's toll on all of us here. It's tough to hear that Seattle grocery workers are able to get the hazard pay. What does that say about grocery workers here in Tacoma, or other cities for that matter? Are we regarded as less? Undeserving? Underqualified? Don't our needs and our families needs matter as well? It does to us. But when we go to work everyday, without the hazard pay, it definitely drags down our morale. The pandemic is still far from over. What is it going to take for us to matter? The loss of more coworkers? Family members put at risk? Please reconsider your position on this. It means more to us than you will ever know. It means we matter too.



*Nigel (Carolyn) Sorton*  
*NFRC #390-WTS-Tacoma Stevens*  
*Desk: 253-756-9312*  
[carolyn.sorton@stores.fredmeyer.com](mailto:carolyn.sorton@stores.fredmeyer.com)

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