

**From:** Kayla Quinn <kaylala427@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 2:11 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Public comment 5/18/2021

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

I am writing to submit public comment on Ordinance 28756. I am against this ordinance as it effectively criminalizes people in our community who are unhoused. This ordinance will only cause harm and displace people and force them into unsafe and overcrowded situations. The Council needs to be focused on providing more housing options. The prices for housing in this city are absolutely outrageous and unaffordable. We need low income housing, and greater push for landlords to lower housing costs. Most studio apartments are \$1,200 a month easily. That's ridiculous.

We need more permanent and free housing solutions and communities. I guarantee we will discover an even better model and solution if directed by the unhoused community themselves. Ask THEM what resources they need to live and thrive. The people being affected are the ones that should be consulted and leading the way to solutions.

All of these things need to come first so that people aren't forced to live on the street because our city has failed them. I myself am only one missed paycheck away from not being able to make rent. Many citizens are in a similar situation.

Having to survive and exist in public is not disorderly conduct and should not be a crime. If you don't want people living on public sidewalks and public grass, give them a place to live safely, sleep soundly, shower, be a human. It's that simple. Criminalizing the behavior will not fix the problem. Providing housing and resources will.

I urge you to vote no on this inhumane ordinance.

~Kayla Quinn (she/her)

**From:** Max Savishinsky <max@wpsr.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor  
**Subject:** WA Health Professionals Urge NO vote on Ordinance No. 28756  
**Attachments:** Refuse Ordinance No. 28756 \_ Petition from WPSR \_ B.pdf

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

Dear Mayor Woodward and Tacoma City Council Members,

On behalf of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility - a statewide, health professional-led advocacy organization working to create a healthy, just, peaceful, and sustainable world - I am writing to urge you **NOT to adopt Ordinance No. 28756**, a harmful policy that will criminalize homelessness and poverty, and which does little to actually serve the needs of unhoused individuals or to protect public health.

Please find attached a petition signed by 60 community members, including WPSR Members, healthcare professionals, educators, activists, and business leaders asking Tacoma City Council to swiftly reject this ordinance, as well as the erroneous claims that criminalizing homelessness in the midst of a pandemic would protect public health. We urge the Council to vote NO on Ordinance No. 28756, and instead address the root causes of the health and homeless crisis by investing in affordable housing, expanded shelter capacity, mental health services, and compassion.

Thank you,

**Max Savishinsky**

Executive Director, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Email: [max@wpsr.org](mailto:max@wpsr.org) | Phone: 206.547.2630

Visit us: [wpsr.org](http://wpsr.org) | Join us: [Become a member](#)

Donate: [Support our work](#) | Learn more: [Sign up for emails](#)



## WASHINGTON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Tacoma City Council,

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) is a statewide, 40-year-old, health professional-led advocacy organization working to create a healthy, just, peaceful, and sustainable world. **We, the undersigned and the Board, staff, and membership of WPSR, are writing today to urge you and your colleagues to NOT adopt [Ordinance No. 28756](#), a harmful policy that will criminalize homelessness and poverty and which does little to actually serve the needs of unhoused individuals.**

**As an organization of healthcare professionals, we are concerned with addressing the root causes of health inequities in Washington state.** Chronic homelessness and unsafe and high cost-burden housing are significant public health issues that can impact the mental and physical well-being of Washington residents for years, if not for generations.

**Homelessness and housing insecurity are associated with a range of [poor health outcomes](#).** These include a higher risk of exposure to communicable diseases, higher rates of emergency medical services, greater risk of chronic illness, and life expectancy that is on average 12 years shorter than the general US population.

**We know that the health impacts of homelessness are not felt equally, and due to systemic inequities built into our housing, health, and economic policies, people of color, particularly youth of color, continue to be overrepresented in Washington state's homeless population.** According to the [Washington State Department of Commerce](#), Black youth in Washington comprise 24% of the homeless youth population but represent only 6% of the total youth population.

To echo the [words](#) of the [Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness](#): "...the number of people experiencing homelessness dramatically exceeds current shelter capacity. A recent County estimate identified 1,350 unsheltered individuals in Pierce County, with Coalition counts showing only 40 shelter beds available county-wide. **Enforcement to 'encourage individuals to take full advantage of the sheltering...' will have massive negative impacts with nearly no positive ones.** Fines and incarceration are traumatic events that create barriers to permanent housing."

Furthermore, Council members [have said](#) that the City will "wait until after there's adequate shelter and removal of CDC encampment clearing guidelines to enforce the ordinance..." Plus, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [ruled](#) in [Martin v. Boise](#) that enforcing anti-camping measures without adequate shelter capacity is unconstitutional.

**If you cannot legally enforce or have no intention to enforce this harmful Ordinance, why consider adopting it at all? Now is the time to build support systems and ensure adequate shelter capacity.**

**Your effort to pass this Ordinance despite your own misgivings, the shaky legal ground on which enforcement would stand, and the state of the pandemic are deeply concerning and a threat to public health.**

Every day, in clinics and hospitals across the state, our WPSR's members (including physicians, pediatricians, nephrologists, oncologists, social workers, public health professionals, and others) see the downstream health impacts of economic insecurity, housing instability, and homelessness in the poor health of our patients.

**We cannot stress this enough: we are not able to keep people healthy when they come to us without a stable home.**

Please protect public health and refuse to accept or adopt an Ordinance that would threaten public health by further destabilizing an already vulnerable population in whose welfare we ought to invest through affordable housing, mental health services, and compassion.

**Reject Ordinance No. 28756.**

Thank you,



**Dr. Max Savishinsky, MPA MAIS, EdD (Executive Director, WPSR), and the Undersigned:**

Miss Autumn Adams | Sultan, WA 98294  
Mr. Glen Anderson | Lacey, WA 98503  
Miss Danica Balsiger | Burien, WA 98166  
Dr. Carol Barnes | Seattle, WA 98118  
Dr. Joseph Berkson | Seattle, WA 98112  
Ms. Frances Blair | Steilacoom, WA 98388  
Mr. Robert Brown | Fircrest, WA 98466  
Ms. Anita Bryant | Seattle, WA 98105  
Mr. Elvin Bucu | Tacoma, WA 98406  
Dr. Paul Buehrens | Bellevue, WA 98007  
Ms. Beth Call | Walla Walla, WA 99362  
Mr. Roland Carette-Meyers | Seattle, WA 98106  
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Mrs. Dagmar Fabian | Bellingham, WA 98225  
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Mr. Ralph Myer | Seattle, WA 98146

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Ms. Kiki Penoyer | Seattle, WA 98106  
Ms. Heather Pens | Olympia, WA 98506  
Ms. Jamie Ptacek | Seattle, WA 98119  
Mrs. Camilla Pusceddu | Mukilteo, WA 98275  
Ms. Sandra Russell | Pullman, WA 99163  
Dr. Max Savishinsky | Seattle, WA 98144  
Mr. Steve Shapiro | Seattle, WA 98144  
Dr. Audra Stallard | Tacoma, WA 98405  
Mx. Erin Stewart | Bothell, WA 98012  
Mx. Claire Summa | Seattle, WA 98199  
Ms. Cornelia Teed | Bellingham, WA 98225  
Mrs. Carolyn Treadway | Lacey, WA 98503  
Dr. Joachim Veith | Kirkland, WA 98034  
Dr. Mark Vossler | Kirkland, WA 98034  
Ms. Patricia Warden | Newcastle, WA 98056  
Ms. Tesia Wood | Seattle, WA 98106  
Ms. Whitney Wood | Seattle, WA 98144

WPSR is a 501(c)3 organization working to create a healthy, just, peaceful, and sustainable world by taking on the gravest current threats to human health and survival.

2524 16<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Ste #300 Seattle, WA 98144 | [wpsr@wpsr.org](mailto:wpsr@wpsr.org) | 206.547.2630



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Dear Tacoma City Council:

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) is a statewide, 40-year-old, health professional-led advocacy organization working to create a healthy, just, peaceful, and sustainable world. We, the undersigned and the Board, staff, and membership of WPSR, are writing today to urge you and your colleagues to NOT adopt [Ordinance No. 28756](#), a harmful policy that will criminalize homelessness and poverty and which does little to actually serve the needs of unhoused individuals.

As an organization of healthcare professionals, we are concerned with addressing the root causes of health inequities in Washington state. Chronic homelessness and unsafe and high-cost-burden housing are significant public health issues that can impact the mental and physical well-being of Washington residents for years, if not for generations.

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**From:** Tara Chase <taramchase@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:48 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

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

Hello,

I am writing to you regarding this attempt to criminalize camping on public property. I am incredibly disheartened that this is Tacoma's response to our homelessness problem. Every sweep, eviction, and ban just pushes homeless folks to another area, and solves nothing.

I would like to see Tacoma take efforts to help this population become housed. It is compassionate and more frugal for the tax payer dollars to invest in our community and all who reside here.

I ask that at today's meeting regarding Ordinance 28756, your decision is to kill this proposal and look to true solutions for our city.

Thank you for your time,

Tara Chase

Tacoma, WA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** Neil Hewitson <neil.hewitson@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:47 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Neil Hewitson, and I am writing to you today to oppose the enactment of ordinance 28756 by the city council. We need to be providing more services and support to the most vulnerable neighbors in our community, rather than sweeping the problem under the rug to fester into something worse.

It is clear that the city council is trying to find solutions to what has become a major problem in our community, however when shelters are packed to capacity it is wrong to punish those who have fallen on hard times, and to move them further and further away from services and resources that they desperately need. It should not be illegal to simply exist in our society.

I urge the city council to reject this ordinance, and to begin fighting for, not against, our unhoused community members.

Thank you.

-Neil Hewitson

Hilltop resident

**From:** Jennifer Ladzinski <jennladzin@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:37 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office; Ushka, Catherine

**Subject:** Public Comment on Ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council Members & Mayor Victoria Woodards,

I heard that Ordinance 28756 will be discussed at the City Council Meeting later today, and I wanted to reiterate my stance on this important issue.

I strongly object to Ordinance 28756, which would criminalize houselessness and punish our unhoused neighbors for doing their best to survive in public spaces. We know that unhoused people are disproportionately BIPOC and often struggling with chronic illnesses or mental health conditions. Rather than criminalizing houselessness, we need to invest in affordable housing solutions that are equitable and trauma-informed! Please show that you care about our community and our houseless neighbors, by dropping Ordinance 28756!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ladzinski, LICSW, CYT

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

(206) 267-8701

[jennladzin@gmail.com](mailto:jennladzin@gmail.com)

**From:** Morgan Vanderpool <info@morganvanderpool.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Profound Objection to Ordinance 28756- Housing solutions before penalties!

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

Dear city council and mayor-

I'm writing from the depths of care that I have as a long term Tacoma resident (13 yrs), and local Tacoman social worker.

I'm writing to profoundly object to Ordinance 28756 on the grounds that proposing a penalty to camping/living on public property without sufficient solution to the immense challenge of housing scarcity, is irresponsible and inhumane.

This ordinance penalizes the symptom (houselessness) of an in-accessible housing market, rather than getting creative about how our city could effectively house folks who are living & sleeping/camping on the streets of Tacoma, because there is no other place at present for them to lay their head at night, and take care of their basic needs.

Please understand that preemptively beginning with a punitive approach, rather than a solutionary approach to the housing crisis in Tacoma, is antithetical to community care that is at the essential center of any city who prioritizes the well being of its people, especially in the City of Destiny.

Please revoke Ordinance 28756, and invest the city's time, energy and care in creating safe and secure housing solutions for our residents.

In solidarity and gratitude!

Morgan Vanderpool

--

**Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW**

(Pronouns- They/Them/Elle)

mobile: (253) 697- 0190

"Move at the speed of trust." - adrienne maree brown

"When we pay careful attention to the present moment, we can trust that an adequate, adaptive response will appear."  
- Tom Borkevec

"we need a r/evolution of the mind. we need a r/evolution of the heart. we need a r/evolution of the spirit. the power of the people is stronger than any weapon. a people's r/evolution can't be stopped. we need to be weapons of mass construction. weapons of mass love. it's not enough to change the system. we need to change ourselves." Assata Shakur

"Mycelium is the part of the fungus that grows underground in thread-like formations. It connects roots to one another and breaks down plant material to create healthier ecosystems. Mycelium is the largest organism on earth. Interconnectedness. Remediation. Detoxification."

— adrienne maree brown, Emergent Strategy

'You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.'  
- Angela Davis

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For Clients: When you choose to communicate Patient Identifiable Information by responding to this email, you are consenting to the associated email risks. Please note email is not secure, and I cannot guarantee that information transmitted will remain confidential.

**From:** Hillary N <raindogbride@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:11 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Comment on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, my name is Hillary Neal and I am a resident of the Oakland neighborhood of Tacoma and I want to urge the city council not to pursue the upcoming city ordinance that criminalizes homelessness and is frankly, one of the most obtuse and cruel ideas the council has ever come up with.

This is bad policy. It's cruel policy. Fining the unhoused for not having homes is unacceptable, especially with rents in Tacoma as high as they are. It's hard enough to find somewhere to live even if you can spare \$1600 a month on a one-bedroom with bus access, and yeah, sometimes that means you have to camp in a city park.

Find these people homes if they want them. You're not going to punish and fine your way out of this, and it's repulsive that you even want to try.

-HN

**From:** suni tinn <sunnytianxin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28756

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

I urge the Tacoma city council to drop Ordinance 28756. The criminalization of unhoused people is cruel and misguided. Instead of improving public health and safety, this ordinance would force the most at-risk members of our community into crowded and unsafe spaces.

If we are a city that truly cares about the safety of our community members, we should work to directly support those people who are just trying to survive, instead of punishing them further and then expecting the issue of housing to go away. Please consider why you are planning to evict people and potentially expose them to police brutality in order to promote the "welfare of the general public."

Thank you

**From:** Thy Nguyễn <nguyen.cathryn@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:34 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Drop Ord. 28756 - Stop Criminalizing Homelessness!

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

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council:  
This ordinance is cruel and unethical, especially in the midst of a global pandemic.

I demand that Mayor Woodards and city council:

-Drop this cruel ordinance  
-Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents -End the criminalization of homelessness -Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Tacoma City Council states that its intent is “not to create or otherwise establish any particular class or group of individuals who will be discriminated against by the terms of the ordinance”, but Ordinance 28756 does exactly that. This ordinance punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, disabled, and/or living with chronic health conditions. This ordinance bolsters policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for the abolition of police. This ordinance is a direct violation of the people’s unalienable right to exist and survive in public space, especially when city-driven development and gentrification have created the very conditions that the city now seeks to outlaw.

Ordinance 28756 effectively:

- 1) criminalizes homelessness
- 2) punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, and/or living with chronic health conditions, for surviving in the face of city-driven gentrification and displacement
- 3) emboldens and empowers policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for defunding and abolition of the white supremacist and violent institution of policing
- 4) violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to not disperse encampments (unless safe and alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents — housing which we know does not currently exist in this city) and
- 5) most of all, violates the ethical codes of morality which call on the preservation of dignity of human existence in public space over the “protection” of public property.

Ordinance 28756 should have never been introduced at all and should be dropped now. Instead, city council should invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Danno Mannino <danno.17@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:48 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Drop Ord. 28756 - Stop Criminalizing Homelessness!

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Sent from my iPhone

**From:** nathan roemmich <fireflynexes@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:42 AM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** No on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to express my opposition to ordinance 28756, The proposed ban of camping on public lands.

This ban would unfairly affect those without homes and burden them with fines that they already could not afford, which wastes both time and money for our city in the long run.

The city of Tacoma has a responsibility to address the lack of shelter and facilities for those that need it particularly in these times of a pandemic and economic turmoil, ordinance 28756 only adds to the burden and is not a working solution in the slightest.

The quality of a city is not judged by how it treats its most privileged members, but for how it cares for those in greatest need.

Please do not adopt ordinance 28756.

Sincerely,

Nathan A Roemmich.

**From:** Katie Anderson <katiejean253@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:55 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** NO on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to ordinance 28756. This proposes a ban on camping on public lands. I feel that this ban would target some of our most marginalized and at risk community members, well also criminalizing people (these same community members) who have nowhere else to go. Having a lack of shelters and spaces such as restrooms and other public facilities is a massive problem. The city of Tacoma owes it to all of its community members to address this.

This ordinance does nothing to help these people. It does not provide shelter, water, sewer access, or garbage access. Because Tacoma does not have these facilities, and does not address providing them to unhoused people, the ordinance will do nothing to address its stated purpose of preserving the public health and welfare of the people.

This ordinance will result in harassment for people who are already having an incredibly hard time just surviving. Evicting people from the only space that they currently have to occupy, and fining them is not only unethical but cruel.

These are members of our community, members of the public, just like you and I. They deserve better than this.

Please do not adopt ordinance to 28756.

Respectfully,

Katelyn Jean Anderson

*Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone*

**From:** Nicole Plastino <plastinonj@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 8:39 PM

**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** No on ordinance 28756

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to express my opposition to ordinance 28756, the proposed ban on camping on public lands. This ban criminalizes people who truly have no other place to go. Lack of access to shelter and proper facilities is a definite problem- one that the city has a responsibility to address.

This ordinance, however, does nothing to provide that water, sewer, and garbage access. Because Tacoma does not have enough of these proper facilities for existing unhouse people, the ordinance will do nothing to address its stated purpose of preserving the public health and welfare.

The result will be harassment and fines for people (members of the public) who already cannot afford to pay them. This is counterproductive and cruel.

Please do not adopt ordinance to 28756.

Respectfully,

**From:** Bob Jones <13013jones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 8:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** No camping ban, please

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

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to express my opposition to Ordinance 28756, the proposed ban on camping on public lands. This ban criminalizes people who truly have no other place to go. Lack of access to shelter and proper facilities is a definite problem, but this Ordinance does nothing to provide that water, sewer, and garbage access. Without enough of those proper facilities for existing unhoused people, this Ordinance will do nothing to address its stated purpose of preserving the public health and welfare. The result will be harassment and fines for people who already cannot afford to pay them. This is counterproductive and cruel.

Please, do not adopt Ordinance 28756.

Thank you,

Aaron Jones

**From:** Kacie Masten <kacie.masten@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 7:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina  
**Subject:** PLEASE Do NOT Pass City Ordinance 28756

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

I see this ordinance is up for a hearing on May 18th. Please read my below message. I urge you to vote against ordinance 28756.

Thank you,

Kacie Masten  
Concerned Community Member

> On Apr 20, 2021, at 8:44 AM, Kacie Masten <kacie.masten@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> I am writing in STRONG opposition to city ordinance 28756 which would ban "public camping". This ordinance is harmful at best and discriminatory at its worst. Many of those in public encampments are people of color who have been displaced by the gentrification occurring in the city. Those who are houseless are not getting support from the city or local officials. Instead city council is choosing to sweep away folks who are simply trying to survive.

>

> If Mayor Woodards and the Tacoma City Council want to solve the houselessness crisis, city ordinance 28756 should not be passed. Instead, the city should listen to local organizations and community members who have been engaging in mutual aid with those in encampments. Let local community members who are actually trying to support folks in the city lead this conversation, instead of turning your backs.

>

> This ordinance is telling the people of Tacoma that you are simply disgusted by the site of public camping, and not actually concerned about how to fix the systemic housing crisis. Do NOT pass this ordinance.

>

> Thank you,

>

> Kacie Masten

> 425-445-0519

>

**From:** Karla Rixon <rixon.karla@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 3:48 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Woodards, Victoria; Beale, Chris; City Manager; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Hunter, Lillian; Walker, Kristina; Blocker, Keith; McCarthy, Conor; Ushka, Catherine  
**Subject:** No on City Ordinance 28756

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

Dear City Clerk,

I would like to register my opposition to City Ordinance 28756, which would ban camping on public property in Tacoma. There are many people living rough in our city because there is no suitable affordable shelter. Property prices are rocketing up and so are rents. We have very limited housing units that are affordable for people who are on fixed incomes. People simply have no place to go. Criminalizing the people who are already in such dire straits is extraordinarily cruel, and since there aren't housing units where people can live, it's also completely, utterly pointless. It invites harassment and violence against people living without houses by neighbors and cops, and as we have seen in Seattle, LA, and everywhere else that has tried it, sweeps of encampments are a total waste of public funds. Sweeps don't end homelessness. They just torment homeless people.

Please completely drop all consideration of Ordinance 28756 and end all sweeps and evictions of encampments. Focus city expenditures on providing housing, not criminalization. Build more extreme-low-income housing where people living on disability or retirement income can afford to live. Listen to people on the margins, who are unhoused, when they--the experts on what it's like to live that way--tell you about the situation, and let them lead in projects to end homelessness.

Thank you,

Karla Rixon