

From: oakschiller2 <oakschiller2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:49 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Council Meeting (Home in Tacoma and Ordinance 28756)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,
Because I think that housing is the biggest issue in our city right now, I support Home in Tacoma. I think it is a necessary first step in ensuring that every Tacoman has a place to live a dignified life. After this I think the city needs to do more to provide affordable housing to its citizens. I think we should build public housing, and find ways to support private tools like housing co-ops, and community land trusts.

Because there is still so much work to do to provide affordable housing to Tacomans, I think that a ban on public camping is a terrible, and cruel idea. All this does is criminalize being homeless at a time when so many people do not have another option.

Thank you,
Jay Oak-Schiller, the South End

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Heidi <batlmaidn3@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Hines, John; Walker, Kristina; vadergan@yahoo.com; City Clerk's Office

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06/15/21

Dear Mayor and City Council:

I am supportive of Ordinance 28756 amending Title 8 to add the new chapter 8.19 "Use of Public Property." This has been a public health issue for a very long time and I am glad that you are finally taking action so everyone can enjoy public spaces and not feel like they have to worry about being in an unsafe/unsanitary space.

Heidi White, lifelong resident

From: Troy Christensen <troy@rainbowcntr.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Walker, Kristina; Blocker, Keith; Beale, Chris; Ushka, Catherine; Woodards, Victoria; Thoms, Robert; Hunter, Lillian; Hines, John; McCarthy, Conor; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: Ordinance 28756
Attachments: Tacoma City Council Ordinance 28756.docx

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This time with the attachment.

Best regards,
Troy

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 4:04 PM Troy Christensen <troy@rainbowcntr.org> wrote:

Good afternoon, Council Members. I attach a formal statement from Rainbow Center in opposition to Ordinance 28756.

We anticipate testifying in person next week as well.

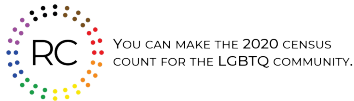
Best regards,
Troy

--

S. Troy Christensen

Executive Director - Rainbow Center

he/him/his



2215 Pacific Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98402

Ph: [253-383-2318](tel:253-383-2318) Fax: [253-383-2978](tel:253-383-2978)

troy@rainbowcntr.org

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www.tacomapride.org



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CENTER**

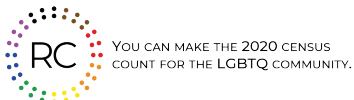
ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER.

--

S. Troy Christensen

Executive Director - Rainbow Center

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C E N T E R

ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER.



Tacoma City Council
Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Council Member,

It has come to our attention that the City of Tacoma is considering a vote on making camping in a public setting illegal. We are not here to argue the merits of that, which is controversial as well, but to argue about the disparate impact this will have on certain populations. Rainbow Center stands in opposition to Ordinance 28756.

Black people represent 10% of the population of Tacoma. But they represent nearly 40% of those experiencing homelessness. The statistics for LGBTQ people are very similar.

These populations are already disparately impacted in education, economics, criminal justice, and many other systems. Let's not make things worse at a time when the City is trying to decrease these disparities.

One of the things we love about Tacoma is that the City Council generally understands these kinds of impacts, so we are shocked to hear what is being considered.

If there were enough resources to house everyone experiencing homelessness, then this law might make more sense (although we still would have concerns, but not as great). But as we all know, there are not enough housing resources in our community for those with low and no incomes. This law will result in people who have no other options being charged with a crime. This is not the Tacoma we know and love. Please vote this down.

Highest regards,

Troy Christensen
Executive Director
troy@rainbowcntr.org
253-383-2318 X101

CC: City Clerk

From: Erick Seelbach <eseelbach@pcaf-wa.org>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 10:40 AM
To: City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Thoms, Robert; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Beale, Chris; Hunter, Lillian; McCarthy, Conor; Walker, Kristina
Cc: Amanda DeShazo; Liz Heath; Maralise Hood Quan; Michael Yoder; Miriam Barnett; Pierce County Human Services Coalition; Sue Potter; Traci Kelly; Troy Christensen
Subject: Letter in opposition to Ordinance 28756
Attachments: 061121 PCHSC opposition to Ord. 28756.pdf

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Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the Pierce County Human Services Coalition in opposition to Ordinance 28756 , which would criminalize homelessness.

Thank you,
Erick

Erick Seelbach

(primary pronouns: she/her/hers)
(secondary pronouns: he/him/his)
Executive Director

Tacoma (253) 383-2565 3009 S. 40th St., Tacoma WA 98409
Olympia (360) 352-2375 2101 4th Ave. E. #103, Olympia WA 98506

Ending the HIV epidemic in the South Sound. pcaf-wa.org

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In the interest of building strong families and healthy communities, we educate and advocate for the effective delivery of human services.

June 11, 2021

To: Tacoma City Council

Re: Ordinance 28756

Executive Leadership

Erick Seelbach
Chair
PCAF

Liz Heath
Treasurer
Sound Nonprofits

Mike Yoder,
Secretary
Associated Ministries

Miriam Barnett,
Membership Chair
YWCA

Amanda DeShazo
Advocacy Chair
**TPC Affordable
Housing Consortium**

Maralise Hood Quan
**Center for Dialog and
Resolution**

Sue Potter
Nourish Pierce County

Troy Christensen
Rainbow Center

Traci Kelly
Catherine Place

The Pierce County Human Services Coalition (PCHSC) stands in opposition to Ordinance 28756, which would criminalize homelessness in Tacoma. PCHSC encourages the City of Tacoma and all municipalities to meet people experiencing homelessness with compassion rather than criminalization. The Ordinance seeks to ban individuals from storing “personal property, including, without limitation, Camp Facilities and Camp Paraphernalia, on any Public Property,” resulting in misdemeanor charges and/or fines.

PCHSC maintains that the ordinance’s goal to, “provide for and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and not to create, either expressly or implicitly, or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons or individuals who will or should be especially protected or benefited or discriminated against by the terms of this chapter,” is in direct opposition to later language establishing penalties for violations. People experiencing homelessness are part of the general public and their health, safety, and welfare also need to be provided for and promoted.

This ordinance will harm our houseless neighbors and perpetrate racial inequity. While over 74% of the Pierce County population is white (U.S. Census Bureau), 50% of people experiencing homelessness in our community are people of color. This demonstrates the disparities people of color face in our community. Historic housing discrimination and ongoing impacts of displacement increase barriers to accessing shelter and safety. This ordinance is in direct opposition to Tacoma’s stated values of addressing and ending racism in our community.

This ordinance will only further compound barriers homeless people face when attempting to get jobs, find housing, and/or access services. Though the ordinance states that its purpose is to “divert calls... requesting enforcement of criminal laws to using these calls for service to locate and provide shelter,” this cannot happen when our homeless services programs are past capacity, stresses from the COVID-19 pandemic, and lack adequate funding.

The first step toward confronting homelessness in Tacoma should be examining why we so often hear that people experiencing homelessness don’t want shelter. This is a myth. It is true that unhoused people refuse shelter that doesn’t allow for their circumstances, but that is a failing of our systems. People accept housing when their needs can be met. We encourage allocating meaningful resources for increasing accessible housing options and supporting services and programs that meet the needs of people where they are at. This is a crucial action the City can and should take. This includes an expansion of all housing options from access to sanitation, emergency shelter, and permanent accessible housing. Notice that we say ‘accessible’, not ‘affordable’. We draw a distinction between housing that is merely meeting the legal standard of affordable housing as opposed to safe opportunities to access housing that take into account the individual circumstances of the unhoused.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erick T. Seelbach".

Erick Seelbach, Chair
Pierce County Human Services Coalition

Pierce County Human Services Coalition Members

Affordable Housing Consortium

AHAT

Allen Ratcliffe

Asia Pacific Cultural Center

Associated Ministries

Catherine Place

Catholic Community Services

Center for Dialog and Resolution

Centro Latino

Community Health Care

Elevate Health

Emergency Food Network

First 5 Fundamentals

Greater Lakes MHC

Habitat for Humanity

Home Ownership Center

Hope Sparks

L'Arche Tacoma Hope

Lutheran Community Services

Making a Difference Foundation

MDC

NAMI Pierce County

New Connections

Nourish Pierce County

Oasis Youth Center

PAVE

PCAF

PC Accountable Communities of Health

Pioneer Human Services

Rainbow Center

Rebuilding Together South Sound

Salvation Army

Sound Nonprofits

South Sound Outreach

St. Leo Food Connection

Tacoma Community House

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

United Way

YWCA