

From: abdul alia <abd_10a@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:56 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: small business Action now!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Pierce County resident and a small business owner in Tacoma, University Place, and Federal Way.

I am reaching out in despair as my business (Smoke Depot) in Tacoma has been robbed countless times but most recently, we have been robbed at gunpoint two times within 7 days.

It feels as though there is nowhere for me to turn to protect, most importantly, my employees and my business. To bottom line this, **my employee's lives are in danger**.

On Friday at 10:45PM PT, the worker on duty (who happens to be my brother), was robbed at gunpoint for cigarettes and the contents in the cash register. Today, my employee (a single mother) was robbed at gunpoint, with a note in broad daylight at 12:15PM PT.

Unfortunately, this isn't the first series of events. There is a long list of gun violence, vandalism, theft, and other unaddressed crimes that have taken place at each one of my businesses which I will address another day.

I am writing to address what is happening **right now**.

There is a lack of police presence in the community, a lack of accountability for the criminals in Tacoma and a general sense of lawlessness throughout this city. The purpose of government is to provide parameters for everyday behavior for its citizen and to protect them. The government officials of this city and this state are not maintaining social order, providing the proper public services, or offering the proper securities to the very individuals who they are indebted to. It is not up to private citizens to offer you, the government, blueprints for how to solve the scourge of homelessness, drug addiction, unemployment, and other societal issues which directly inflate the violent crime plaguing this city. That is what you are paid to do.

We, the citizens, residents, and business owners are busy trying to save ourselves!

I want action. A lack of response from the city and state government has a chance to lead to a detrimental outcome. To be blunt, there is a risk of one of my employees being senselessly harmed or worse.

What are the next steps to regain lawfulness in this city?

When can we expect to live, work, and do business in Tacoma without fearing for our lives?

Present the business owner community data on how the laws implemented that decreased police presence have helped the citizens of Tacoma.

Regards,
Abdul AbuAlia

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From: jo davies <jodavieshac@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:26 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: community forum comment for City Council meeting of February 22, 2022

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mayor,Councilmembers, City Manager:

The time has come, (really it's long overdue) for Tacoma to get serious about our appearance. Volunteer litter-picker-uppers, Call to Haul, and one-offs such as Tidy Up Tacoma and Community Clean-ups are fine but they can not, and will not, stem the tide of trash and litter in our parking strips, sidewalks, streets and alleys, indeed, everywhere you look. What needs to happen is regular, systematic clean-up/removal by the Environmental Services Department. This needs to be a budget priority...there can be no excuse for the blight that is festering.

[jo davies](#)
[220 Tacoma Ave S, #710, Tacoma, WA 98402](#)
[253-307-5147](#)

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 1:58 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written comment for Feb 22, 2022 Virtual Forum
Attachments: 2022 2 22 City Virtual Forum written testimony.pdf

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Good afternoon, Doris, attached is my written comment for the February 22, 2022 Virtual Forum.

Thank you.

Sally

Sally Perkins
1419 S Sheridan Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98405
sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

February 22, 2022

To: Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Ushka, Council Member Blocker and the full City Council.

Virtual Forum written testimony on alternative crisis response.

My name is Sally Perkins. I live in Council District #3, Councilmember Blocker's District. I am writing to you today as a signer of the community petition to create a fully-funded, unarmed, non-police crisis response team in Tacoma. The time for this transformation is now.

I support the petition because people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis may need one or many things, like mental health care, medication, housing, or simply some kindness and compassion. What they do not need is to be shouted at or issued "commands," or to be "controlled" or arrested. It is past time for Tacoma to organize, hire, and fully fund a response team of people who can actually help people during a crisis in the ways they need to be helped.

Ask yourselves this question: **If my child, partner, cousin, or neighbor were experiencing a mental health crisis, who would I want to call for help, and how would I want them to treat my loved one when they show up?**

When I answer this question for myself...I want the people showing up to help to speak softly, to move slowly and carefully, to acknowledge the humanity of my loved one, and seek to calm the whole situation down. I would want the people showing up to show kindness and understanding.

I want the people I call to be highly skilled at calming people and situations down, to arrive with the goal of saving the person's dignity and life in the interaction. I don't want them to be in tactical gear, nor do I want them to have weapons.

In the handful of instances where the people showing up assess the situation and think it is too volatile to handle by themselves, I want them to be able to call on specially-trained law enforcement and EMT personnel to help, in as calm and gentle a way as possible.

The City Council and City staff have made strong commitments to transformation. This is one of your essential transformations and our community is going to hold you accountable for following through on it. Now, not years from now.

In the past several years, I have seen several of my friends experience mental health crises. Two of them had shown signs of increasing mental distress but got no help until they committed felony assault and were arrested. One was injured in their assault incident. Both were unhoused at the time, and had not been able to navigate the housing services maze. One was released to a congregate shelter and lasted there two days.

The third appeared agitated enough to require a DCR to respond and order an involuntary commitment. This person verbally objected to being sent to an evaluation and treatment center, and left as soon as possible (an involuntary commitment does NOT increase someone's interest in getting treatment...) ...and ended up back in Jail.

In each of these cases, a community member, a neighbor, a friend, was subjected to intense suffering, incarceration, risk of injury, homelessness, and forced treatment through involuntary commitment. Every single one of these impacts is traumatic and makes the mental health crisis worse.

Is this our vision as a community? To treat our neighbors this way?

I sure hope not.

Please create a fully-funded, unarmed, non-police crisis response team in Tacoma. The time for this transformation is now.

From: Pink Lips <pinklipspugetsound@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Ushka, Catherine; Woodards, Victoria
Cc: Matt Nagle; Matt Driscoll; City Clerk's Office; Pauli, Elizabeth; achen@tpchd.org
Subject: Re: Written Comment for Next Council Meeting / Community Forum / Virtual Forum

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I heard on the news that the City Council recently gave the Health Department \$100K for their Bravo program (where businesses verify vaccination status). With everything U.S. politicians are doing to rush toward "normal" despite no scientific data supporting it (see Hong Kong and Denmark right now for a glimpse at the future), can you get that money back ASAP and use it toward something else? These are taxpayer dollars and I do not support the Health Department keeping that money.

City Clerk, I would also like it on the record for the upcoming public forum that I asked the City Council to read these two articles before deciding on in-person meetings, but that even after seeing these two articles they pushed forward anyway to exacerbate public health risks for people of color, the elderly, the immunocompromised and CHILDREN under the age of 12 who are too young to get boosted and some who are too young to even get ANY vaccines.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/17/health/ba-2-covid-severity/index.html>

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/a-uw-expert-just-called-the-end-of-the-pandemic-why-is-nobody-celebrating/>

On Feb 17, 2022, at 9:35 AM, Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org> wrote:

Hello,

Please know that I do believe we are going to keep hybrid zoom options – probably forever. Thanks for your email.

Catherine Ushka
Deputy Mayor, City of Tacoma - District 4
747 Market Street, Room 1020
Tacoma, WA 98402
253.355.1276 cell phone

Contact Chandra Real @ CReal@cityoftacoma.org, 253.591.5447 to schedule an appointment
[Get to know 311 and the TacomaFirst 311 App!](#)

From: Pink Lips <pinklipspugetsound@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria <vwoodards@cityoftacoma.org>; Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Blocker, Keith <kblocker@cityoftacoma.org>; Daniels, Kiara <KDaniels@cityoftacoma.org>; Walker, Kristina <KWalker@cityoftacoma.org>; Rumbaugh, Sarah <SRumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org>; Bushnell, Joe <JBushnell2@cityoftacoma.org>; Hines, John <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; McCarthy, Conor <cmccarthy@cityoftacoma.org>
Cc: City Clerk's Office <cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org>; achen@tpchd.org; Pauli, Elizabeth <EPAULI@cityoftacoma.org>; Jumper, Tanisha <tjumper@cityoftacoma.org>

Subject: Written Comment for Next Council Meeting / Community Forum / Virtual Forum

City Clerk, I am listening to this bizarre ego-driven update from Councilmember John Hines and I would like this officially logged:

Tacoma City Councilmembers, with another COVID surge on the horizon of omicron 2, or whatever you want to call it, perhaps stealth omicron, or BA.2, that's more contagious than omicron, and a third of the country (even more in Pierce County) who has not been vaccinated and probably a large part of the country who has not been naturally infected we will probably see another uptick in case rates and hospitalization rates. We cannot drop our guard now.

We know you are probably itching to sit behind that dais, especially those who are new to elected office or those who live for that kind of thing like Councilmember McCarthy, but the citizens of Tacoma expect you to do the responsible thing and continue offering 100% virtual access to all of your business meetings moving forward.

With COVID disproportionately impacting people of color, the very young, the elderly and those with immunocompromised systems, if we are striving toward an endemic state, you don't want to be responsible for hosting a superspreader meeting / event just to stroke your own egos.

Just because we are over COVID does not mean COVID is over us.

Jenna Michaels

From: cascadian@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 9:37 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: \$2.7 Billion surplus..... and homelessness

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HAMI

Homelessness, Addiction, Mental Illness

The state tax take forecasts show a \$2.7 Billion surplus between today and 2025. \$2.7 Billion.

I call on everyone here and all your friends to demand that the 'extra' money be dedicated wholly and solely to dealing with HAMI. All of it. Not to create and maintain services but to start solving the problems.

It's seen all over the news, social sites, and in just driving around town; we have a PROBLEM with HAMI and we aren't doing anything effectively about it. You can add whatever flavor you want, disparate impacts, collective problems, veterans.... I don't care. It's a problem that is unsolved and hugely complained about. By pretty much everyone.

I call upon the citizens of the State of Washington to get that money and get this dealt with.

Sadly, my efforts to date have been for naught as I have long called for \$500 Billion from the Feds, and/or land grants to fund solutions to HAMI. We threw around \$6 TRILLION dollars in the past year and a half, and did nothing to alleviate their and our problems aside from restricting the actual solving of problems. It doesn't make sense to complain without offering a solution.

I am offering solutions all over the place in the hopes that it will spark some action here. I get shamed, scolded and grumped at because I am looking for solutions, and the means to encourage better living for all. I don't understand, it's too complicated for me to understand.

Please. Let's finally start doing SOMETHING to get this area cleaned up. Now. We have \$2.7 billion at a minimum and if you want me to go through the state budget, I can easily find another \$8 Billion. I don't even care at this point if a check is written for \$70,000 to each homeless person to get them into housing and on a start to a better life. For Pierce County, that would be \$210 million. Less than 10% of the 'surplus' Pittance.

Thank you. Please start advocating for this to be solved.

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:07 PM
Subject: Comment on in-person meetings

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Council members,

If in-person meetings are being considered, please ensure they must include a hybrid/online option (not just during the pandemic, but for all committees/commissions/public city meetings, going forward).

However, the prevailing community opinion (expressed to me, as a neighborhood council board-member) is to please not return to in-person meetings until the pandemic is absolutely over (not going by just when infection rates start to go down, since in-person meetings then will simply contribute to the next surge).

Trying to "return to normal" too soon, such as meeting in-person, is precisely why this pandemic is continuing for as long as it is, so please (for public health and safety) err on the side of caution and continue with virtual meetings, only.

Thank you,
HeidiGS@hotmail.com

From: Pink Lips <pinklipspugetsound@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Blocker, Keith; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; McCarthy, Conor
Cc: City Clerk's Office; achen@tpchd.org; Pauli, Elizabeth; Jumper, Tanisha
Subject: Written Comment for Next Council Meeting / Community Forum / Virtual Forum

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Jenna Michaels