

From: Webb PERMA <Webb.Perma@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 1:10 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: No to business license tax and fee increases

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the City Council,

Small businesses in Tacoma, have suffered devastating losses from crime, COVID and are now faced with escalating wages. Most of us are losing money and are considering moving to safer and more economical communities.

Have you exhausted all other means of revenue, before going to the business community's dried up well?

How about getting more excise tax dollar sharing from the State's huge revenues from the cannabis industry?

Have you considered finding Federal funding to bring in the National Guard to help defend businesses against the criminals?

Have you considered expanding the jail into a maximum security prison using Federal funding? (since the jail is the largest structure in town, why not go really big?)

Hope you find the proposed solutions helpful

Thank you,

Webb Bowie
Perma, LLC
1610 Center Street, Tacoma

From: Ken Moultrie <ken@thenewbp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 12:02 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: 'THREEMS.NANCI@gmail.com'
Subject: COMMENT ON BUSINESS LICENSE INCREASE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I strongly oppose the proposed increase on business license fees in the City of Tacoma.

I am a small business owner in Tacoma, operating a small media consulting company with no employees. I am not a retail “open to the public” business. I find it ridiculous that this increase is being sold as a way to “help maintain essential services and address critical public safety and infrastructure needs.” You should be embarrassed by that statement. In my opinion, a lack of funds is not the problem. The problem is how that money is currently being spent.

This increase will have less of an impact on my small “service” based business than it will on the many local Tacoma retail businesses trying to come back from the financial devastation caused by the pandemic. Factor in the rising costs around every corner and the local Tacoma business community will soon be a ghost town.

Just as local businesses are starting to make a come-back, this proposed business license fee increase will shove them right back down. For those businesses who have managed to survive through the challenges of the past and present, this proposed business license fee increase will be the “final nail” for many.

Should you pass this increase, I hope that you are held accountable for every penny of how this money is spent to actually help local businesses in Tacoma instead of funding other projects and priorities of the city.

Thank you.

Ken Moultrie
Managing Partner
Broadcast Partners, LLC
6716 Eastside Drive NE Suite 1-100
Tacoma, WA 98422
Office | 800-503-5013 Ext. 1
Voice & Text | 253-226-8217
Fax | 206-267-9828
ken@thenewbp.com
www.thenewbp.com

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee, you should not

disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited, plus it's not nice.

From: Matt Theinert <m.theinert@deltatooling.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Michael Johnson; Mark Andrews; City Clerk's Office; Tacoma Business Council
Cc: Real, Chantra; Woodards, Victoria; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Campbell, Haley; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; Hines, John; City Manager; Griffith, Allyson; Heidi S.; Ushka, Catherine; Goodwin, Claire; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin; Mike Givens; Sophia McKee; John F. Pugh; Joelle Siebert; Grace Yarber; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland; allison b; Maureen Fife; Adam Gehrke; ed; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady; info@tacomabusinescouncil.com; Chris Hamilton; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com); BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian; Faaluaina Pritchard; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete; Josh Harris
Subject: RE: Business License

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Appalling is putting it lightly! It's a fuckin slap in the face! You City Bastards have turned Tacoma into a shit-hole with your ignorant bleeding heart homeless policies, and now you want more money? That's pretty fuckin rich.

One completely disgusted 253 resident,

Matt

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Michael Johnson](#)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 2:42 PM
To: [Mark Andrews](#); cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org; [Tacoma Business Council](#)
Cc: CReal@cityoftacoma.org; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org; hcampbell2@cityoftacoma.org; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; John Hines; city manager; Allyson Griffith; Heidi S.; catherine; Claire Goodwin; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin; Mike Givens; Sophia McKee; John F. Pugh; Joelle Siebert; Grace Yarber; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland; allison b; Maureen Fife; Adam Gehrke; ed; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady; info@tacomabusinescouncil.com; Chris Hamilton; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com); BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian; [Asia Pacific Cultural Center/LUA](#); BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete; Matt Theinert; Josh Harris
Subject: RE: Business License

This is beyond tone deaf and outrageous if not utterly clueless.

If this passes, every single one of the Council Members who rubber stamped it should draw a primary opponent during their next election cycle. I for one will make that an absolute priority. This is not just hostile to business, this represents a threat to the livelihood and success of the entire City. All while entire Business Districts and neighborhoods have been under siege for over two years from the crime and violence the City Manager and some members of this Council have enabled if not encouraged with utterly ludicrous, backward policies.

300 percent increase while every single one of our costs and expenditures has increased while our margins have tightened even further after the Covid shutdown and supply chain crisis. To say nothing from the losses due to vandalism, theft, and break-ins.

No one can be this out of touch with basic economic principles, to say nothing of reality.

This is appalling.

Michael J Johnson
South Tacoma Business District
Board of Directors
michael@polybagllc.com

From: Mark Andrews <mark@addisonsupply.com>

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 2:25 PM

To: Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>; cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org; Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>

Cc: CReal@cityoftacoma.org; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org; hcampbell2@cityoftacoma.org; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish <rswanes@northernfish.com>; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; John Hines <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; city manager <citymanager@cityoftacoma.org>; Allyson Griffith <AGriffith@cityoftacoma.org>; Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>; catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Claire Goodwin <claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org>; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin <drenfro@toolgauge.net>; Mike Givens <mg@gamerz.golf>; Sophia McKee <sophiam@tacomaparks.com>; John F. Pugh <john@marinehardware.com>; Joelle Siebert <Joelle@pacificbox.com>; Grace Yarber <grace@fixatedre.com>; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland <dnyland@outlook.com>; allison b <AlisonB@tacomachamber.org>; Maureen Fife <mfife@tpc-habitat.org>; Adam Gehrke <me@adamgehrke.com>; ed <Ed@pacificmount.com>; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III <tnttire@hotmail.com>; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams <brazentotem@gmail.com>; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady <cmady@graylumber.com>; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com; Chris Hamilton <chris@warestore.com>; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany <brittany@rockhomesalesre.com>; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com) <krich0093@gmail.com>; BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian <barnold@farmersagent.com>; Asia Pacific Cultural Center/LUA <faaluaina@asiapacificculturalcenter.org>; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete <pete@bristowsauto.com>; Matt Theinert <m.theinert@deltatooling.com>; Josh Harris <josh.harrisicg@gmail.com>

Subject: Business License

Council,

Is this chart for real? How many of the council members have owned businesses?

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Does the City hate the businesses that do business here? It appears the Council is trying to push businesses out of town. It's hard not to consider moving our corporate operations to a more business friendly town. Is this the council's goal?

According to your chart a business that does \$5,000,001.00 in business will pay \$1,500 in Business license fees. Is the \$515,000.00 Tacoma receive in Sales Tax from those sales not enough to feed your thirst to spend money? You need an extra \$1500 to be whole?

Do the Math, these companies are the ones paying your bills, nickel and dime taxes add up to a fortune year over year and you can't just continue to increase fees everywhere.

Tacoma City Light and Tacoma water have roughly hit us with a 15% increase to cover costs. I'd suggest if you'd like to increase fees, you look at that type of an increase.

Tacoma has a spending problem that can't be subsidized by the businesses that pay the bills. Figure out your

budget with funds that exist or cut unneeded salaries and expenses. This is just one more slap in the face to the businesses in this town.

Sincerely,



Mark Andrews

President

800-474-0711

F: 253-474-0714

mark@addisonsupply.com

Addison Construction Supply, Inc.

Serving the NW since 1977

From: Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:58 AM

To: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Cc: CReal@cityoftacoma.org; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org; hcampbell2@cityoftacoma.org; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish <rswanes@northernfish.com>; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; John Hines <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; city manager <citymanager@cityoftacoma.org>; Allyson Griffith <AGriffith@cityoftacoma.org>; Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>; catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Claire Goodwin <claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org>; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin <drenfro@toolgauge.net>; Mike Givens <mg@gamerz.golf>; Sophia McKee <sophiam@tacomaparks.com>; John F. Pugh <john@marinehardware.com>; Joelle Siebert <Joelle@pacificbox.com>; Grace Yarber <grace@fixatedre.com>; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland <dnyland@outlook.com>; allison b <AlisonB@tacomachamber.org>; Maureen Fife <mfife@tpc-habitat.org>; Adam Gehrke <me@adamgehrke.com>; ed <Ed@pacificmount.com>; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III <tnttire@hotmail.com>; Mark Andrews <mark@addisonsupply.com>; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams <brazentotem@gmail.com>; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady <cmady@graylumber.com>; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com; Chris Hamilton <chris@warestoratation.com>; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcvenneering.com; Rock, Brittany <brittany@rockhomesalesre.com>; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com) <krich0093@gmail.com>; BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian <barnold@farmersagent.com>; Asia Pacific Cultural Center/LUA <faaluaina@asiapacificculturalcenter.org>; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete <pete@bristowsauto.com>; Matt Theinert <m.theinert@deltatooling.com>; Josh Harris <josh.harrisicg@gmail.com>

Subject: Home in Tacoma for All

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PwDUdBPS4yffjOO3zMtkUB6w53IcLOZa61U5WxzupQE/edit?fbclid=IwAR1gYkmBXuAIaTu9nuo-TyX-Lqjj5EJ92-b7EL1bMO1zBERgVbi7mP8k>

This level of vitriol and defamation is completely uncalled for. These activist groups do not care about the people living in squalor and blight while battling the demons of addiction and mental illness. Many of whom are continuously victimized by the criminal elements running the drug encampments. We know for a fact that everything from human trafficking to chop shops to drug manufacturing and distribution is the norm in these camps. And they are driving the rampant crime and violence plaguing our communities and costing our Small Business sector hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses. Not to mention the environmental damage these camps are causing which has been well documented. This has nothing to do with homelessness. This does not criminalize homelessness. This addresses a long overdue need to protect the people in the encampments and get them the help and services they need but may be unwilling or unable to accept. These activist groups know this. But these people are just fodder to them. A means to an end.

The council members who supported and passed this ban should be commended for their courage to do so. Those who rejected it and are beholden to the activists corruptly using this issue to push a hard left socialist agenda without thought or care for the collateral damage afflicted on the encampment residents and our Community as a whole should be ashamed of themselves.

And if I was Angela Connelly, I would sue them into oblivion for this vicious and uncalled for and completely unfounded personal attack.

Michael J Johnson
South Tacoma Business District
Board of Directors

From: Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 2:42 PM
To: Mark Andrews; City Clerk's Office; Tacoma Business Council
Cc: Real, Chantra; Woodards, Victoria; Blocker, Keith; Hines, John; Campbell, Haley; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; Hines, John; City Manager; Griffith, Allyson; Heidi S.; Ushka, Catherine; Goodwin, Claire; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin; Mike Givens; Sophia McKee; John F. Pugh; Joelle Siebert; Grace Yarber; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland; allison b; Maureen Fife; Adam Gehrke; ed; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com; Chris Hamilton; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com); BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian; Faaluaina Pritchard; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete; Matt Theinert; Josh Harris
Subject: RE: Business License
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Subject: Business License

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Sincerely,



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Serving the NW since 1977

From: Michael Johnson <Michael@polybagllc.com>

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:58 AM

To: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Cc: CReal@cityoftacoma.org; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org; hcampbell2@cityoftacoma.org; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish <rswanes@northernfish.com>; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; John Hines <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; city manager <citymanager@cityoftacoma.org>; Allyson Griffith <AGriffith@cityoftacoma.org>; Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>; catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Claire Goodwin <claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org>; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin <drenfro@toolgauge.net>; Mike Givens <mg@gamerz.golf>; Sophia McKee <sophiam@tacomaparks.com>; John F. Pugh <john@marinehardware.com>; Joelle Siebert

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Subject: Business License
Attachments: Table_Showing_Increases_to_Business_License_fees.02.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Council,

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Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:58 AM

To: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Cc: CReal@cityoftacoma.org; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; keith.blocker@cityoftacoma.org; john.hines@cityoftacoma.org; hcampbell2@cityoftacoma.org; dean@simmonsauto.com; fish <rswanes@northernfish.com>; Rbrown@lifeforceservicesinc.com; John Hines <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; city manager <citymanager@cityoftacoma.org>; Allyson Griffith <AGriffith@cityoftacoma.org>; Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>; catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Claire Goodwin <claire.goodwin@cityoftacoma.org>; info@2ravensstudio.com; dustin <drenfro@toolgauge.net>; Mike Givens <mg@gamerz.golf>; Sophia McKee <sophiam@tacomaparks.com>; John F. Pugh <john@marinehardware.com>; Joelle Siebert <Joelle@pacificbox.com>; Grace Yarber <grace@fixatedre.com>; armormark3@sbcglobal.net; Dennis Nyland <dnyland@outlook.com>; allison b <AlisonB@tacomachamber.org>; Maureen Fife <mfife@tpc-habitat.org>; Adam Gehrke <me@adamgehrke.com>; ed <Ed@pacificmount.com>; T and T Tire Point S Auto Service Ed Tuck III <tnttire@hotmail.com>; Mark Andrews <mark@addisonsupply.com>; jjones@kiro7.com; mike@mpindustrial.com; Justin Williams <brazentotem@gmail.com>; David@q13fox.com; Chrissy Mady <cmady@graylumber.com>; info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com; Chris Hamilton <chris@warestoration.com>; james.matlock@platt.com; matt@drcveneering.com; Rock, Brittany <brittany@rockhomesalesre.com>; william.g.rupert@usps.gov; Karen Rich (krich0093@gmail.com) <krich0093@gmail.com>; BRIAN ARNOLD INS AGENCY-Brian <barnold@farmersagent.com>; Asia Pacific Cultural Center/LUA <faaluaina@asiapacificculturalcenter.org>; BRISTOW'S AUTO REPAIR-Pete <pete@bristowsauto.com>; Matt Theinert <m.theinert@deltatooling.com>; Josh Harris <josh.harrisicg@gmail.com>

Subject: Home in Tacoma for All

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PwDUdBPS4yffjOO3zMtkUB6w53IcLOZa61U5WxzupQE/edit?fbclid=IwAR1gYkmBXuAInAIaTu9nuo-TyX-Lqjj5EJ92-b7EL1bMO1zBERgVbi7mP8k>

This level of vitriol and defamation is completely uncalled for. These activist groups do not care about the people living in squalor and blight while battling the demons of addiction and mental illness. Many of whom are continuously victimized by the criminal elements running the drug encampments. We know for a fact that everything from human trafficking to chop shops to drug manufacturing and distribution is the norm in these camps. And they are driving the rampant crime and violence plaguing our communities and costing our Small Business sector hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses. Not to mention the environmental damage these camps are causing which has been well documented. This has nothing to do with homelessness. This does not criminalize homelessness. This addresses a long overdue need to protect the people in the encampments and get them the help and services they need but may be unwilling or unable to accept. These activist groups know this. But these people are just fodder to them. A means to an end.

The council members who supported and passed this ban should be commended for their courage to do so. Those who rejected it and are beholden to the activists corruptly using this issue to push a hard left socialist agenda without thought or care for the collateral damage afflicted on the encampment residents and our Community as a whole should be ashamed of themselves.

And if I was Angela Connelly, I would sue them into oblivion for this vicious and uncalled for and completely unfounded personal attack.

Michael J Johnson
South Tacoma Business District
Board of Directors

Gross Revenue Tiers	Current License Fee	Proposed Fee for 2023 (Percentage increase from 2022)	Proposed Fee for 2024 (Percentage increase from 2022)	How is the increased money to be spent?
Less than \$12,000	\$25	\$25 (0%)	\$37.50 (50%)	Added to the General Fund-no limits or instructions to invest to make Tacoma safer or a more stable economic environment.
\$12,000-\$250,000	\$110	\$130 (18%)	\$190 (73%)	Same
\$250,000-\$1M	\$250	\$300 (20%)	\$435 (74%)	Same
\$1M-\$5M	\$250	\$1,000 (300%)	\$1500 (500%)	Same
Over \$5M	\$250	\$1500 (500%)	\$2,000 (700%)	Same

From: Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Pauli, Elizabeth
Cc: City Clerk's Office
Subject: PLANNED BUSINESS LICENSE INCREASE - URGENT READ

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

This is not the time to be raising fees. Tacoma is a regressive town when it comes to fees. Businesses are suffering and trying to keep their doors open. Yes, you will be using their gross income as the basis for their Business License – this technically means you are penalizing them for making a little money as they recover from the Pandemic with higher staff costs, higher product costs and higher utility and other costs.

On another note, Tacoma will continue to lose businesses to other cities because of Tacoma's B&O tax that is not necessary. You put this money in the general fund. Other cities do not charge a local B&O Tax because they understand that businesses already have a B&O Tax that the State charges all businesses.

Businesses have had to pay thousands of dollars in **out-of-pocket costs** to replace broken windows at a cost of approximately \$3500 a piece depending on the size, doors that have been crowbarred open destroying the door and the glass. Some businesses have had their delivery vans' fuel lines punctured and drained of gasoline. This has happened more than 2 or 3 times or more. Our businesses pay these costs out of their own pockets to minimize their insurance costs because businesses have seen their insurance costs soar.

Restaurants that have had their product stolen during break-ins are set back and forced to quickly purchase product at higher costs to be able to operate. To say nothing about the current status of shortages because of Climate Change and the Ukraine war. Meanwhile, their insurance costs go up so much that they are teetering on the brink of closing their businesses.

The cost of utilities has also gone up exponentially. As I talk to some of our business owners who are hanging by a thread to keep their businesses open and pay salaries to keep staff. Restaurants and other businesses that are struggling because they have rents to pay for their space, salaries to pay, benefits for those staff, cost of product and plethora of expenses that barely provides enough funds to continue operating. But before I forget, the annual inspections that businesses pay also adds to the expenses that they don't have money to keep paying when they are struggling to stay afloat.

Keep in mind that many of these businesses have been robbed at gun-point and their staff are suffering trauma. Our Walgreens was robbed again recently. These businesses either close for good or they hire security to help protect their businesses – the cost of which is high and only a handful of businesses can afford to do this for a short time. This has been happening ALOT.

Put off this increase in business tax for this coming year and/or reduce it more. Let our businesses get a better footing. You need to WALK IN THEIR SHOES before you do this.

Also, think about getting rid of the City's B&O Tax. Be more Progressive – NOT REGRESSIVE – before our businesses move to Business Friendly cities that don't impose this second B&O tax.

Respectfully,
Esther Day
For the Pacific Avenue Business District S. 56 to S. 46
This also includes a lot of businesses from S. 46 to S. 35th

From: Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:24 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fwd: Increased Business License Fees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Honorable Mayor Woodards and Distinguished Councilmembers,

We are forwarding to you a letter we received from a business owner on Hill Top in which she asks that the City wait until 2024 to impose any increase in business license fees. In her letter she does a wonderful job of explaining the rationale behind her request. Please include her letter in the record and take into consideration her plea to defer any such increase in fees.

Respectfully,
Kristen Wynne
President



Safety Is Our Business!
Tacoma Business Council
tacomabusinesscouncil.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Audry F. Henry <audry1usa@aol.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 1:38 PM
Subject: Increased Business License Fees
To: info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>

Dear Kristen Wynne,

My name is Audry Henry. I own a small personal fitness training business in the Hill Top Tacoma area. I will likely not be able to attend the meeting this afternoon at 5 pm because I'm schedule to work. I not only own my business, but I am the only employee.

I have read your letter addressing the increased business license fees that are being proposed. I agree with the issues that you identified and addressed in your letter. I have not been personally impacted by the growing crime rates except to be alarmed and saddened by what I hear in the news and from what I hear from other residents of the Tacoma area.

My concerns about the increase in business taxes are:

1. The timing as businesses are struggling to recover under the continued threat of COVID-19
2. Inflation is impacting businesses, so every thing that we purchase in order to continue to serve our customers has increased in cost.
3. The taxes are based on gross sales, so the cost of doing business is not taken into consideration.
4. My business is scheduled for an increase in rent effective January 1, 2023.
5. I have received a notice that utility costs are increasing
6. Business insurance premiums are increasing
7. I have tried very hard to keep my fees to customers within reasonable ranges, but with all of my costs increasing, I will not be able to do this.
8. Increasing my rates would be easy to do on paper, but with my customers facing increased costs with everything that they buy, they will be forced to give up some things, which will very likely have a negative impact on my business and my ability to remain

in business.

9. I am the only employee and I would certainly like to hire another person, but I have not been able to get to that point yet. I opened my business on Hill Top in December 2017. 2018 was a fairly good first year. 2019 was not bad either, but then came 2020 and COVID-19, where my business was forced to close for several months.
10. Customers are feeling better about coming back, but before I can really make substantial progress, I'm now faced with a slew of rate increases, making it harder for me to remain in business.

I think it would be wise to hold off on business license fee increases until 2024. There is still a lot of uncertainty regarding a recession plus there are increases in real costs that businesses are currently experiencing. It is likely that some businesses that have been able to hold on to this point, may not survive another year.

Thank you for your time and for representing Tacoma Businesses.

Best Regards,

Audry F. Henry
Owner MA's House of Fitness
1110 S. 11th Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
(657) 215-5915