

From: Hester Serebrin <Hester@transportationchoices.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 3:33 PM
To: City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina
Cc: Matthew Sutherland; Alex Hudson
Subject: Active Transportation in Tacoma City Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear members of the Tacoma City Council,

My name is Hester Serebrin and I am the Policy Director at Transportation Choices Coalition (TCC). We are an organization that advocates for safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation throughout Washington State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the Tacoma City budget. **TCC is writing today to express support for walking and biking investments. We urge the City Council to invest more heavily in sidewalks, bike lanes, curb cuts, and more.**

These infrastructure investments are critical for helping Tacoma meet its Vision Zero 2035 goals of reducing transportation injuries and fatalities, ensuring we are on a path to meeting Climate Action Plan goals, and creating equitable access for all.

We know that low-income, BIPOC, and disabled individuals are more likely to rely on active transportation and transit, face transportation overburden and insecurity, be impacted more by traffic violence, and be displaced away from services into neighborhoods with insufficient infrastructure and connectivity. Better infrastructure makes everyone safer and investing in historically underserved communities and neighborhoods helps to right historic inequities.

Given this, we again urge you to look for opportunities to protect and expand funding for safe active transportation infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Hester

Hester Serebrin (she/her)
Policy Director

Transportation Choices

1402 3rd Ave #310
Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: 206.329.2336
www.transportationchoices.org

Stay up to date with our work. [Sign up for our newsletter here.](#)

From: Barbi Leifert <barbi6253@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:04 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please Fully fund the police

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

In the past year 2021-2022 unlike any others in tacoma and we have been here since 2004- Our business was broken into twice with no police response one of the times , we have had to deal with drug addicts on our doorstep The police have not responded like they used to because there are not enough of them to do the job I consider tacoma currently to be unsafe I have had to hire private security in addition to paying over 70K in taxes We never see police patrols anymore in the dome district or downtown The police department needs to be funded - many more hired and then given the power to make arrests and have crimes be prosecuted and criminals put in jail Thank you Barbi podemski

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nancy Chapa <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:13 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund a Climate Just Tacoma City Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council Tacoma City ,

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

As climate change intensifies, many people in our community will suffer – especially our low-income neighbors and communities of color. That is why I am asking you to allot at least \$2 million in new climate investments in the 2023-2024 budget. We need to fund climate resiliency education, reduce toxic storm water to protect aquatic life, remove fossil gas from buildings, and create the jobs needed to achieve these goals, including building more sustainable low-income housing. These initiatives are crucial to reaching Tacoma's goal of net zero climate emissions before 2050.

While budget and inflation have taken a front seat to address the here and now, the future of our city and the entire planet must be in the orchestra section. We know what we need to do. This is not a matter that can be tabled to look at later. Later will be too late for the future of our lives and of those whose lives are our future.

Please fund the full budget requests of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, to invest in a future for everyone that calls Tacoma home.

Thank you.

Nancy Chapa
njnelson50@gmail.com
5302 N 46th St
Tacoma, Washington 98407

From: Dave Gustafson <davegus@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:36 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding Tacoma Police Department

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning, I just want to reach out and express how important I and my family feel it is to fund and support the Tacoma Police Department. Our community is dependent on Tacoma Police for our safety. Now, more than ever, it is vital that they are given all available resources to allow them to be as effective as possible. We believe the funding of Tacoma Police and the opening of the jail should be a top priority for the City of Tacoma. We pay massive taxes to the City of Tacoma, which should allow for the necessary protection and safety of all residents of this once great city. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Gustafson

From: Mike Saner <mikesaner@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:46 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding the Police Dept

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

Safety for our communities should be our number one priority. I support fully fund the TPD's budget request. Crime is skyrocketing in this area and we need our streets safer than they currently are. This is a matter of urgency!

Sincerely,
Michael Saner
Employed in Tacoma for 26 years +

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Andrew Armour <andrew@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:52 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund the Police

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to voice my opinion on the budgeting for the police presence in Tacoma. I work on South Adams St and since Covid, the road have become overrun by broken down motorhomes, drug deals, theft, littering, gun violence, and so much more. I have a short walk from my car to work but I am constantly looking over my shoulder and feel unsafe. I never felt this way before coming to work. For example, I had a coworker riding his motorcycle to work and a car came screeching up next to him and someone pointed a gun at him to intimidate him for no reason.

To the Police Departments credit they have cleaned up South Adams St multiple times. But it just disperses the vagrants down the road and they will just go in circles. Destroying one part of town then move, taxes pay to clean up that area, while they move just down the road and destroy that area, and so on. This trend needs to stop and something else needs to be done, at this point it is a waste of time, resources, and tax dollars. No one is help accountable for this.

If you want to see a perfect example of this, S Washington St between 56th St and S 41st St is over run with broken down vehicles and trash. I have witnessed multiple drug deals on this street. They don't even hide it any more. There is drug paraphernalia littering the streets.

My car has been broken into multiple times seemingly for no reason. One time it was just to go through my center console and I keep nothing in my car to avoid this, they ended up not taking anything, just broke my window. Another time they broke in and smashed my window and stole my lunch box with my leftovers in it... My license plate has also been stolen off of my car and took me months to get a new one because there was a "covid shortage."

Please consider refunding the Police Department and help make Tacoma safe again. The politicians who have let this happen to our underappreciated police department should be relieved of their duties. They are not serving the majority of the citizens of Tacoma. They are just tending to a vocal minority.

Some things you could consider funding would be:

- o increased forensics staffing to provide for 24/7 coverage for crime scene services.
- o increased funds for the psychologist contract to assist our officers in getting the care they need.
- o replacing all of the outdated unmarked vehicles.
- o increasing the equipment and training budget to replace ballistic vests and other equipment.
- o Sufficient funds to cover all costs of hiring new recruits including the police academy, equipment and uniforms.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you,



Addison Construction Supply, Inc.
Serving the NW since 1977

From: Dale Schriver <DALEDS2@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 8:04 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund the TPD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma Council Members,

I would like to encourage you to fully fund the Tacoma Police Department. The police need to be able to hire enough personnel, and train them properly and have the proper equipment they need.

I believe in the police chiefs plan to lower violent crimes in Tacoma, and it will work if you as the city council and us as the citizen's get behind them and the council funds them.

I often fear for my and my coworkers safety when the homeless are out there yelling at them and leering at them as they walk into and out of work. The crime rate is out of hand for theft, burglary and violent crimes. You as a council can do something about all of this.

-Allow the police to do their job and enforce the laws.

-Increase licensed forensics personnel for 24hour coverage of crime scene services.

-increase funds to keep psychologists available for officers to get the care they need

-replace ageing vehicles

-increase the training budget and equipment budgets

-sufficient funds to hire new recruits and include police academy, equipment and uniforms.

-fund the city/county jails so the arrested criminals can await arraignment and serve time for their law breaking.

-Encourage the prosecutors to actually prosecute wrongdoing of people.

Thank you for your time in reading my email.

Dale Schriver

From: Josh Galusha <josh@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 9:17 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Mark Andrews
Subject: FUNDING OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT???

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a citizen of Tacoma, WA to express my concern and disappointment with the level of crime we tax paying citizens are enduring on a daily, if not hourly, basis. Our cars, homes and businesses are constantly being broken into, property damage is on the regular, drug addicts openly use syringes at bus stops in front of anyone who is unfortunate enough to look in their direction and the sound of gun shots are as normal as the neighbors barking dog. My employer is located on Adams St. which is constantly overrun by RV's, car thieves and drug addicts who all take turns stealing & breaking into cars and businesses. My car has been broken into 3 times in the last year, unfortunately there was no one to call since the police have been dramatically defunded to the point that politicians have created a wild west environment which is full of lawlessness and people who are not afraid of authority to say the very least. Not only have the police been defunded, but they have been taken for granted, under-appreciated and made to feel guilty for protecting the very people they were sworn in to protect. The reigns have been given to criminals, drug addicts and the homeless who all have more rights than the tax paying citizens who are breaking both their back and bank accounts to keep a dying city alive. I don't know a single person in this city who feels safe walking from work to their car, let alone through the streets of the city they have chosen to make a home and business in. The city has become a safe haven for criminals and addicts, it's not sustainable and will eventually cause both home and business owners to flee for safer grounds. I hope this helps sheds a little light on how the normal everyday law-abiding tax-paying citizen in Tacoma is feeling, and also hope it shows the importance of having a respected and fully funded police department. The citizens of Tacoma have stuck with his city through the good, the bad and the ugly, they deserve to feel safe and protected

Thank you,



Addison Construction Supply, Inc.
Serving the Northwest since 1977

From: Brenda Wahl <brenda@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 10:45 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding TPD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have lived in Tacoma all my life. I currently work for Addison Construction Supply at 6201 S Adams St. Within the past several years I've seen a steady decline in safety. The employees have street parking only, which creates an environment of stolen vehicles and vehicles being broken into. Personally, my duties include leaving the office once or twice a day for office errands. There have been times when I request a male escort to my car in the middle of the day because of houseless individuals occupying space either parked close by or living in tents on the side of the road where we must park. My sense of safety is not just about the crime against vehicles, but my personal safety. The cars drive in excessive speed along this stretch between 56th and 66th. Crossing the street is hazardous. Walking along the side of parked cars is hazardous. This is just here in this neighborhood. I live close to 84th and Pacific Ave. Going to the grocery store after dark isn't an option anymore. Just the other day we stopped by the Fred Meyer store on 72nd and Pacific in the afternoon. Witnessed a guy loaded down with fresh meat packages and just walked out the door. Employees could do nothing and we as citizens watching were afraid to step in. Having a police presence in these areas would be so beneficial.

I, as a citizen of Tacoma request the Council to:

Fully fund the police department.
That the Council must treat property and violent crime as one of your highest priorities.
To approve TPD's requests for increased forensics staffing
Increase funds for the psychologist contract
To fund the replacing of outdated unmarked vehicles.
Increasing the equipment and training budget to replace ballistic vests and other equipment.

Thank you,



*Addison Construction Supply, Inc.
Serving the Northwest since 1977*

From: karen dugan <dugankidd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 2:24 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: 2023/2024 Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council members,

As a lifelong resident, home owner, voter and taxpayer, please hear me when I say, nothing is more important to me than the safety of our community.

I want full funding for our brave police officers. I want them to have all the equipment, support and tools necessary for our well-being.

Nothing else has any value to your constituents, if crime overshadows their lives.

All the fluff and puffing, congratulating each other, while we cower in fear, is insulting.

Fund the Police. Our Lives Matter.

Thank you,

Karen Kammerer
4809 N Vassault St
Tacoma, WA. 98407

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From: Aaron Arseneau <arseneauaaron519@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 3:28 PM
To: City Clerk's Office

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I live in Parkland and I would appreciate if the police department would get the funding needed to address the violence and crime that is taking place in our community thank you.

From: Lisa Hunt <lhunt@ymcapkc.org>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 5:04 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Tacoma Police Budget and Animal Control officers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Mayor and City council members:

I am asking that you approve the Tacoma Police Department's budget. We need to invest in those who protect our community! In addition to the requested police budget, I am asking that you add more Animal Control officers. For a city our size it is unacceptable and unsustainable to have only 2 officers for a population of over 220,000. There is currently no Animal Control coverage on the weekends and only 1 officer on duty during the day. Crime and animal emergencies don't take a break on the weekends—why should our animal control coverage?

It is time to bring back the officers that have been slowly cut over the years and stop overworking the officers we have. Do we want to have burn-out with the few officers we have? What would happen if we even lost one officer? How would we continue to run our city safely?

We used to have 24/7 coverage when the humane society ran animal control with a full and adequate staff. Animal Control is clearly overlooked and yet it is a specialized and invaluable unit that protects our animals and our community. This is clearly a public safety issue! Let's be proactive and build back our Animal Control unit! Please act now and adjust the budget to bring a full and adequate staff back to ensure the safety of our animals and community.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my requests and concerns and for all that you do for our community.

Lisa Johnson

Lifelong resident of Tacoma

Lisa Johnson
YMCA OF PIERCE AND KITSAP COUNTIES
TACOMA CENTER | 1144 Market St, Tacoma WA 98402
P 253-380-1636
ymcapkc.org | facebook.com/ymcapkc | twitter.com/ymcapkc

The Y is for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

From: Tom Ebenhoh <tomeben@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 6:22 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Rumbaugh, Sarah; Real, Chantra; Kingsolver, Kurtis
Subject: INPUT: City 2023/2024 Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

City Leadership:

1. Specific elements encourage to be included in budget (TPD).
 - increased forensics staffing to provide for 24/7 coverage for crime scene services.
 - increased funds for the psychologist contract to assist our officers in getting the care they need.
 - replacing all of the outdated unmarked vehicles.
 - increasing the equipment and training budget to replace ballistic vests and other equipment.
 - Sufficient funds to cover all costs of hiring new recruits including the police academy, equipment and uniforms.
2. Other recommendations/Input:
 1. Tighten Department discretionary spending,
 2. Arts/Library (shed elements where it make sense),
 3. Address contracted services costs.
 4. Leverage those areas where community volunteers are engaged such as cleanup efforts.
 5. Public safety, affordable housing, addressing homelessness, and economic development programs/initiatives to retain/recruit businesses to Tacoma remain priorities in funding.

Thank you -
Tom Ebenhoh
360-402-1778
Vice Chair, New Tacoma Neighborhood Council
Member, Community Council
Downtown resident

From: Nieves Savage <nievessavage808@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 7:23 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding the Tacoma Police Force

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am totally in favor of supporting the Tacoma Police Department thru funding it fully so they can hire more manpower, buy the much needed equipments to fight crime and to fund auxiliary services to support this activity. The recent uptick in crime is disconcerting and should be nip in the bud before it worsens. Any effort to keep our community safe specially our elderly and young people should be given priority.

I look forward seeing a positive response on this issue.

Truly yours,

Nieves B Savage

S Sheridan Avenue 98408

From: Linda Cohan <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 11:30 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund a Climate Just Tacoma City Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council Tacoma City ,

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

I applaud the Tacoma City Council for being proactive on combatting climate change and for taking seriously climate justice for the residents of Tacoma! Actions at the local level are crucial to moving forward on climate mitigation as well as adaptation especially in light of the foot dragging at the Federal and World government level. Every dollar spent today will be money saved by preventing loss and damage and human suffering.

As climate change intensifies, many people in our community will suffer – especially our low-income neighbors and communities of color. That is why I am asking you to allot at least \$2 million in new climate investments in the 2023-2024 budget. We need to fund climate resiliency education, reduce toxic stormwater to protect aquatic life, remove fossil gas from buildings, and create the jobs needed to achieve these goals, including building more sustainable low-income housing. These initiatives are crucial to reaching Tacoma's goal of net zero climate emissions before 2050.

Please fund the full budget requests of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, to invest in a future for everyone that calls Tacoma home. Thanks for being a leader in taking action on climate change that will mean real benefits for the community and for climate justice!

Thank you.

Linda Cohan
lcohan1234@msn.com
4932 N. Visscher St.
Tacoma, Washington 98407

From: JERALD R PISCHEL <JKPISCHEL@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 5:44 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

It is critical that the City of Tacoma fully fund the Tacoma Police Department. Crime is overtaking our city and there are not enough Police Officers to protect us. Please give full funding to our police department to keep our citizens safe.

Thank you,
Jerry and Karen Pischel
5801 Frances Ave NE
Tacoma, WA 98422
253-927-0656
jkpischel@msn.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Teri Andrews <tlaeja@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 7:56 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: null

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

null

As a long time business owner in south Tacoma, I cannot express enough how important I feel it is to fund the TPD to the fullest extent! With the increase in crime, drug use, and rampant homelessness in the city it is imperative that the police are able to function at maximum capacity to assist and protect all of its citizens. As a business owner I see on a daily basis the increase in crime directed to not only our property, but the property of our employees who are forced to park and walk in an area that once felt safe, but no longer does. If you want to insure that businesses remain in Tacoma, and want to attract new business and families to the city then help the police to do their jobs as efficiently and safely as they can.

Ed Andrews, founder/owner
Addison Construction Supply

Sent from my iPad

From: Mark Andrews <mark@addisonsupply.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 9:15 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please Fund the Police and Open the Jails for criminals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern:

As a small business owner in Tacoma, I ask that the City start making the appropriate funding choices for the Police Department and local Jail.

In South Tacoma we have an ongoing issue with criminals, drug dealers and vagrant types that spend their days destroying our business district. They sleep in run down campers and wonder the streets breaking into cars and every place they touch turns into a filth ridden toilet for them. They spend their nights breaking into businesses, destroying property and making our area unsafe to venture into after dark.

I have several employees that have had cars broken into and stolen. A large majority of my employees come to work at 5am in the dark, making them feel safe should be the Cities top priority. We are the tax payers and we deserve the right to feel safe in the community.

Do we want a city that is full of citizens that carry guns to feel safe? Or do we want a society the our Police Department has full authority to do their jobs. Arresting Criminals, Jailing Criminals will stop this blatant disregard for the community that City Officials have now been guilty of for 5 plus years.

Community Safety should be the Cities number one priority and that is where the majority of city funds need to go.

- Make police feel wanted
- Make police feel needed
- Allow police to police
- Quit stifling their jobs

You will easily find Police that want to work in this City if they are treated with respect and allowed to do their jobs.

FUND THE POLICE

Sincerely,



Addison Construction Supply, Inc.
Serving the NW since 1977

From: Verizon Mail <limpandlazy@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 11:31 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Police Budget/ Animal Control

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Mayor and Council Members,

I would like you to approve the Police Budget with the adjustment of adding more Animal Control Officers to the Budget. Just yesterday Sunday 11/13/22 I was at Safeway on 38th and M street there were 2 loose pit-bulls harassing citizens, several people called 911 and were told there is no Animal Control on duty because it was the weekend. This is not acceptable, I called Animal Control this morning and was told they only have one officer on duty during the week and they are short staffed. They have not had weekend service for years; this is a SAFETY ISSUE. I am 86 years old a retired veteran, I know when there is a danger to the community and yesterday could have been a disaster. Please be proactive.

Thank you

John O'Harra
5201 A street
Tacoma

From: Steve Jones <steve@keyinsure.net>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:17 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: visitdena@gmail.com; stevejguy@comcast.net
Subject: Budget Review items. (Initially sent to wrong email address)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

11/14/22

To: Tacoma City Council
Budget Review and Discussion:

Members of the Council,

I don't need to review the present lack of "law and order" within the City of Tacoma and Pierce County. Everyone has heard the stories, been a victim of some sort of property or bodily harm and read the stories of the on-going miseries plaguing our city.

The "defund the police" movement is now recognized as a disastrous debacle. More and more citizens who would never have considered gun ownership are now, not only owning, but carrying weapons in an effort at self-protection.

It is imperative that we fully fund the police department and give those leading the city's law enforcement efforts, the opportunity to rebuild a city that is safer than what we currently see and experience.

Part of the 911 delays are the calls that the police are now trying to field regarding animal control. Manpower needed to meet citizen needs are diverted to animal control problems – which also need to be addressed. As I understand it, the Animal Control division within the police department can not meet the needs during week-end hours due to lack of manpower. There are no weekend Animal Control officers on duty. They are currently very short-staffed and, like the police, are running many hours behind. I recently heard that the only animal control officer on duty had 30 calls to address. Dangerous dogs, left unleashed or out of owner control, have become an issue. I recently had to defend myself and other elderly pedestrians from an aggressive Rottweiler. When I called to report, they were already 3 hours away from being able to respond.

Please be sure to allow for an increase within the budget for additional Animal Control officers to relieve trained police officers from that obligation. The city needs animal control for personal protection, to say nothing of the danger to loved pets who have come into harm's way.

Steve Jones

Thank You,
Steve Jones, CIC, CRM
Owner/Broker
Tel: (206)420-4270
Fax: (206)420-3284
www.keyinsure.net



Commercial Auto - Personal Auto - Business - Home - Life

From: Heidi Stephens <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:35 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Funding for South Tacoma

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council Tacoma City ,

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

As part of the 2022 Annual Amendment, the code update for the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) and the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone (STEGZ) should be fully funded.

This should include funds for appropriate and objective scientific expert input regarding infiltration/recharge hydrology conductivity testing and long-term affects in the event of Climate Change, population estimates and limitations to impervious surface coverage.

Just as the city purchased and restored shoreline along the Thea Foss waterway for coastal protection, so too must the city give the same priority to it's groundwater and be proactively purchasing all available remaining undeveloped land within South Tacoma and the aquifer recharge area, then restoring it to maximum natural vegetated condition to help manage water run-off and retain moisture within the soil. Such land will also counteract the heat domes, air pollution, low tree canopy and urban dead zones of this overburdened area.

We've heard enough empty talk about equity and toothless climate plans -- it's time to put words to action and end the environmental injustice with South Tacoma by fully funding for STGPD/STEGZ, and start budgeting to purchase and retain natural lands there before it's too late.

Thank you,
Heidi Stephens

Heidi Stephens
HeidiGS@hotmail.com
5312 S Alder ST
Tacoma, Washington 98409

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 2:38 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Comment re: Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

RE: 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget, Capital Budget and Capital Facilities Programs

Mayor Woodards, City Council and City Manager,

As part of the 2022 Annual Amendment, the code update for the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) and the South Tacoma Economic Green Zone (STEGZ) should be fully funded.

This should include funds for appropriate and objective scientific expert input regarding infiltration/recharge hydrology conductivity testing and long-term affects in the event of Climate Change, population estimates and limitations to impervious surface coverage.

Just as the city purchased and restored shoreline along the Thea Foss waterway for coastal protection, so too must the city give the same priority to it's groundwater and be proactively purchasing all available remaining undeveloped land within South Tacoma and the aquifer recharge area, then restoring it to maximum natural vegetated condition to help manage water run-off and retain moisture within the soil. Such land will also counteract the heat domes, air pollution, low tree canopy and urban dead zones of this overburdened area.

We've heard enough empty talk about equity and toothless climate plans -- it's time to put words to action and end the environmental injustice with South Tacoma by fully funding for STGPD/STEGZ, and start budgeting to purchase and retain natural lands there before it's too late.

Thank you,
Heidi Stephens

From: Dena Jones <visitdena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 3:05 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Kristina; Kristen Wynne; Ushka, Catherine
Subject: PLEASE ADJUST THE BUDGET FOR MORE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear city council members,

Not only are people seriously impacted by the rise of crime, but many animals are left abused and roaming the streets without food or shelter.

I recently saw a German Shepherd (type of dog) in an encampment on Bay Street, off of Portland Ave.

This poor dog was on a short tie out, no shelter, in a bunch tires, shivering in the cold. I called animal control this weekend and no one could respond because according to the recording, there is no weekend animal control coverage. Clearly, they are overworked and understaffed.

Why has animal control staff been reduced to the lowest it has ever been during one of the most challenging times in our city?

We need them. The police need their assistance. Dealing with an animal crisis in a timely fashion is critical and desperately needed in Tacoma.

I also have dogs running in my neighborhood looking lost and hungry.

For the first time in the history of Tacoma, citizens are put on hold when they call 911. This is incomprehensible.

But animals have no voice. They are innocent victims of our negligence, indifference, and callous lack of concern.

These animals deserve our protection, care, and quick responses when they need help! They cannot call 911.

PLEASE ADJUST THE BUDGET FOR MORE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS!

Dena Jones

From: Sorum, Doris (Legal)
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 4:46 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: FW: Council: the community wants crisis response. Op-eds, interviews, town halls and petitions show this.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Doris Sorum
City Clerk
253-591-5361
dsorum@cityoftacoma.org

From: Devin Kelly <peopleofearth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 9:07 AM
To: Woodards, Victoria <vwoodards@cityoftacoma.org>; Blocker, Keith <kblocker@cityoftacoma.org>; Bushnell, Joe <JBushnell2@cityoftacoma.org>; Daniels, Kiara <KDaniels@cityoftacoma.org>; Hines, John <JHines1@cityoftacoma.org>; Rumbaugh, Sarah <SRumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org>; Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Walker, Kristina <KWalker@cityoftacoma.org>; Diaz, Olgy <ODiaz@cityoftacoma.org>; Campbell, Haley <HCampbell2@cityoftacoma.org>; clerk@cityoftacoma.org; Sorum, Doris (Legal) <DSORUM@cityoftacoma.org>; Warren, Bucoda <Bucoda.Warren@cityoftacoma.org>; Harding, Melanie <melanie.harding@cityoftacoma.org>
Subject: Council: the community wants crisis response. Op-eds, interviews, town halls and petitions show this.

Greetings City Council members, City Manager Pauli, City Clerk Sorum and city staff leaders,

This is Devin Rydel Kelly from TDSA and the campaign for a mental health crisis response team writing about the 2023-24 biennial budget. While I understand the complexity of budget work and appreciate much of the city's intent -particularly around housing- the budget doesn't go nearly far enough in key areas and obfuscates funding for crisis response.

As you've noticed, folks from our campaign have turned out for every city budget engagement opportunity to express these concerns. We unanimously believe crisis response needs much greater funding much sooner, that it must be dispatchable via the South Sound 911 system early next year, and that HEAL team expansion, library social workers and rebooting the TFD Cares pilot don't rise to what your Matrix consultant called "alternative response."

We've been building support across organizations and in the public, most noticeable at our 10/15 town hall with over 80 attendees. Our campaign now has over a dozen supporting organizations. Our first petition in February had over 500 signatures, and we will deliver one before the final budget vote with over 500 more. Lastly, if you haven't seen it yet, please read the [opinion piece](#) that Eve Bowen and I co-authored in the 11/03 Tacoma News Tribune, or my 11/07 [interview with Radio Tacoma](#). They both go into more detail than can be covered in a 90-second statement. The print version of the opinion piece is also attached here.

We remain resolute in our core demands, in the [visionary policy position](#) that five of us submitted to you in April, and more. Now is that time for bold action. We need an amendment calling for much greater funding, to be implemented in early 2023. We will be turning out at both budget votes to explain why this is crucial. In the meantime, feel free to read the opinion piece or listen to the interview. And there are many smart, passionate folks connected to the campaign who are still eager to meet with council and staff, and who realize figuring this all out goes far beyond the budget vote.

Our mental health, housing, and upcoming economic crises are very real, and cities have unique and infrequent opportunities to boldly address them in the budget process. We hope Tacoma is bold in the coming two weeks.

I hope you are all surviving and thriving in these crazy times.

In solidarity,
Devin Rydel Kelly
Crisis Response Team Campaign

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"If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution" - Emma Goldman

From: Meagan Galacgac <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:17 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund a Climate Just Tacoma City Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council Tacoma City ,

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

As climate change intensifies, many people in our community will suffer – especially our low-income neighbors and communities of color. That is why I am asking you to allot at least \$2 million in new climate investments in the 2023-2024 budget. We need to fund climate resiliency education, reduce toxic stormwater to protect aquatic life, remove fossil gas from buildings, and create the jobs needed to achieve these goals, including building more sustainable low-income housing. These initiatives are crucial to reaching Tacoma's goal of net zero climate emissions before 2050.

Please fund the full budget requests of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, to invest in a future for everyone that calls Tacoma home.

Thank you.

Meagan Galacgac
meagan.galacgac@gmail.com
4561 44th St. NE
Tacoma, Washington 98422

From: Julie Miller <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 12:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Fund a Climate Just Tacoma City Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Council Tacoma City ,

Dear Tacoma City Council and City Manager,

As climate change intensifies, many people in our community will suffer – especially our low-income neighbors and communities of color. That is why I am asking you to allot at least \$2 million in new climate investments in the 2023-2024 budget. We need to fund climate resiliency education, reduce toxic stormwater to protect aquatic life, remove fossil gas from buildings, and create the jobs needed to achieve these goals, including building more sustainable low-income housing. These initiatives are crucial to reaching Tacoma's goal of net zero climate emissions before 2050.

Please fund the full budget requests of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission and Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, to invest in a future for everyone that calls Tacoma home.

Thank you.

Julie Miller
jumill038@gmail.com
11021 Park Ave S
Tacoma, Washington 98444

From: Danny Person <danoperson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:05 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public comment - City of Tacoma Budget: Funding the Tree Canopy
Attachments: Tacoma Tree Foundation - Budget Commentary.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello - Please accept this letter from the Tacoma Tree Foundation as public comment on the 2023 Biannual Budget.

Thank you,

Daniel Person

BCC: Tacoma Tree Foundation board members



To whom it may concern:

The Tacoma Tree Foundation was founded in 2018 with a mission to educate, empower, and support community members in neighborhood-based greening.

Since our founding, TTF has been a close partner with the City of Tacoma to work on increasing the tree canopy in the city, a community priority called out in the Tacoma Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).

The UFMP, adopted by this council in 2019, states that “a healthy, thriving, and sustainable urban forest is a community priority, to be thoughtfully managed and cared for by partnerships between the City and its residents to maximize public safety and benefits that include a thriving ecosystem, vibrant economy, and livable communities shared by all Tacomans.”

As noted by the UFMP, Tacoma has the lowest tree canopy in the region, and the Action Plan sets a commendable goal of increasing the tree canopy from 19% to 30% by 2030. Underscoring the importance of this Plan, since 2019, Tacoma has experienced successive summers with excessive heat. As global temperatures increase, the UFMP provides a roadmap for equitable adaptation to our new climate reality.

However, despite the city’s stated commitments and the urgency of the climate crisis, to date the council has not provided the funding necessary to fulfill the commitments made in the city’s forestry program as outlined by the Plan and documented in the UFMP 2021 Progress Report.

To achieve the goal of 30% tree canopy by 2030, the Tacoma Tree Foundation recommends three areas of focus for this budget cycle:

1. **Arborist crew:** Per the Plan, the city should have a dedicated arborist crew. However, to date the city only has three staff in the urban forestry department, none of them specifically assigned to maintaining Tacoma’s tree canopy. TTF recommends adding 3 staff positions dedicated to maintaining Tacoma’s tree canopy and purchasing the necessary equipment to support the new positions.

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2. **Urban Forest Commission:** The council should fund the formation of an Urban Forest Commission, also called for in the UFMP, which would provide oversight to the city’s policies concerning trees. An Urban Forest Commission would report on the City’s progress toward achieving the 2030 tree canopy goals.

3. **Lower-income neighborhood tree planting:** As shown by research from UWT, Tacoma Tree Foundations, and Portland State University, there is a direct correlation between the legacy of redlining and other racist zoning policies and inadequate tree cover. In fact, the Urban Heat Island Analysis completed by Earth Economics in 2020 found that neighborhoods in Central and South Tacoma, which have the smallest tree canopies in the city, may be as much as 14 degrees F hotter than neighborhoods in North Tacoma. The Tacoma Urban Forest Management Plan must be prioritized to ensure equity and social justice for all Tacoma neighborhoods.

The Tacoma Tree Foundation is dedicated to working on the City’s goal of increasing the tree canopy to 30% by 2030. We look forward to a continued partnership with the City of Tacoma to achieve this goal with the City’s increased dedicated arborist crew. The time is now to budget for this important and crucial work to create the ‘livable communities shared by all Tacomans.’”

Thank you,

The Tacoma Tree Foundation Board

From: Phil Harty <philhartymusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:11 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: budget to fund Crisis Response Team now!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello, my name is Phil Harty and I live in the Central district in Tacoma. I'm writing in support of the community-driven campaign to create a fully-funded mental health crisis response team in Tacoma. The time for transformation is now. City Council must amend the budget to guarantee \$2 million for a dispatched crisis team, funded and deployed immediately! The city has made many commitments to antiracism and addressing deep inequities in social services and policing including action strategies, heal the heart, and the Community Police Advisory Commission. An alternative response team can provide people experiencing a mental health crisis with actual help, not arrest or violence. During 2020's racial justice protests every council member at the time expressed support for alternative crisis response models. We need that support in the 2023-24 budget. Fully funding a city-staffed alternative crisis response team through this office and not the police department would be a good start to enhancing actual community safety. Police aren't trained, or equipped to handle mental health crises. People experiencing a mental crisis may need mental health care, medication, housing resources, or simply some compassion. Being abused or arrested doesn't help their crisis, but makes it worse. An alternative crisis response team is a step towards reducing and even eliminating the oppressive and abusive role of police in our community. An alternative crisis response team would help offer human dignity and vital resources to rehabilitate those suffering from a mental health crisis instead of criminalizing it.

From: Julie M <jumill038@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:29 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Support for Crisis Response Team

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma Clerk's Office,

As a resident of the area, I am here today asking the council members to vote to invest in a Crisis Response Team at tonight's council meeting. This would save lives when a properly trained team can come to help those in stressful situations. It may be a 2 million investment, but compared to the budget the police normally gets it would be practically nothing in comparison. Police forces are also not equipped to deal with mental health situations (they have even admitted this fact), often resorting to violence. As much as the city council members say they support the initiative, we have yet to see any political action from them. In fact, with the recent camping ban it suggests the opposite. They could do so much better and this response team would be a good start.

I urge them to consider voting yes, thank you.

Regards,

Julie Miller

From: Aimee Hamilton <hamilton.aimee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; Daniels, Kiara; Bushnell, Joe; Ushka, Catherine; Blocker, Keith; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Hines, John; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Nov 15th meeting: Fully fund crisis response team & NO camping ban

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Madam Mayor and Council Members,

Writing as a Tacoma resident and Hilltop homeowner (in Council Member Blocker's District 3) and requesting the following:

- 1) A fully funded and equipped in-house crisis response team that employs local people with lived experience to respond to mental health crisis-related 911 calls, rather than police.
- 2) A fully funded and equipped community trauma response team that responds in the wake of violence or trauma in the community, to help affected community members to process the experience.
- 3) A deep investment from the city for fair wages, benefits, and union backing to incentivize community members with relevant cultural context and training to apply to work on these teams and to keep their jobs long-term.
- 4) An end to neglecting the most vulnerable members of our community and cutting resources when so many are struggling to survive. Instead of less spending, we need to invest millions more in programs -such as violence prevention, youth programming, no barrier shelter, public housing and more- that elevate our community, rather than criminalize it.

-- Tacoma police and Pierce County police - police I'm general - are not trained to respond to people in crisis. Police's first response policy is to maintain their own personal safety and shoot first, which is why and how people in crisis end up injured and dead, instead of with the care they need, when armed cops respond to people in crisis.

You, as officials who guide city policy, know this. Act accordingly to save people's lives.

Speaking of saving people's lives, reminding you that the City Council's majority vote for a 10-block encampment ban radius that will incarcerate and continue to criminalize Tacoma's unhoused is still, as a Tacoma speaker at a prior council meeting stated, "Poorly planned and morally wrong".

How is that camping ban going? How many homeless people have been newly housed since the ban started? How many newly homeless in Tacoma are there? How will the three-month "we'll see" period improve homeless Tacoma's ability to obtain secure long-term housing?

Tacoma deserves better guidance and better application of budget dollars than dumping an astronomical proportion into policing. Fund people, not death and incarceration.

Have a great day,
Aimee Hamilton