

From: Kit Burns <kburns.wcb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:01 PM
To: City Clerk's Office; Kit Burns
Subject: Citizen Comment for March 26th - Citizen Forum
Attachments: Home in Tacoma 2 Housing Heights and Trees.docx

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

See attached for comments on building height and tree considerations.

--

William Burns
PO Box 2341
Tacoma WA 98401

"I believe all of our lives would be better if each of you would carry a book in your knapsack. . . "

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

"Things don't just happen. They are made to happen." **John F. Kennedy**

Citizen Comments – March 26, 2024

13.06.090-13-343 TREES IN TACOMA – SHOULD THEY BE REQUIRED?



Park here at Evergreen and take a look. Surely this is unacceptable to all of us. My VW provides more shade. These should not be called trees.



Evergreen State College – Trees? Evergreen came to Tacoma in 1972. Check the lot across the street at Multicare. Also the trees are tiny. Nearly non existent. Ridiculously small. Look at the Costco Parking lot. Nice trees around the perimeter. Hardly anything in the parking lot. These will not reduce the Heat Island effects. We need big Trees.



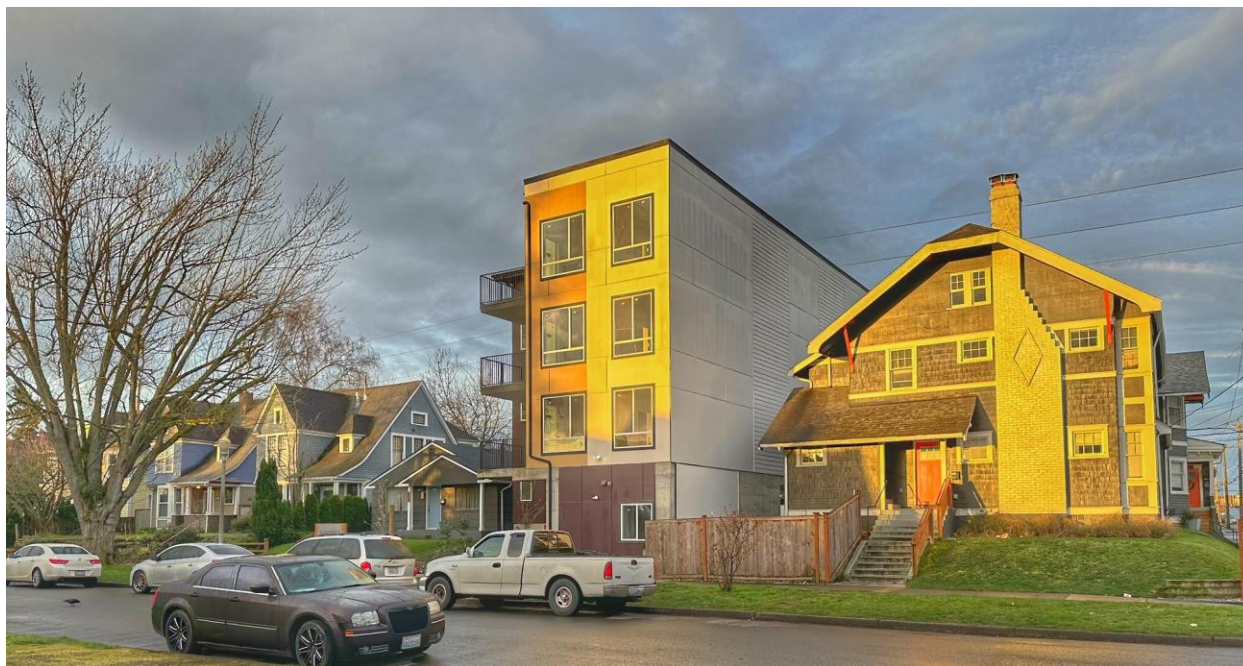
Tacoma Avenue – SCALE? This appears to be about 60 feet high. Need to check.. . .



3 story infill. Very big on this block. Not to scale and not to any design. Design Review?



6TH AVENUE – SCALE? Design? Near Sheridan cross street.



6TH AVENUE and SHERIDAN – SCALE? Just past SPEED WASH on Sheridan. Design? 4 stories. . .

It appears that Tacoma is eliminating the requirement to provide trees on a number of project types. Why?

Kit Burns

Tacoma

Look at the Parking Lots at Costco, MultiCare, actually any place in the City.

On 6th Avenue, the new WinCo. No trees.

Tacoma does not appear to be interested in trees.

From: Cathie Raine <cjrrd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comments are for 3/25/24 'Public Forum' portion of City Council meeting Agenda
Attachments: Home in Tacoma - Phase 2 Overview.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council members, Deputy Mayor Hines and Mayor Woodards,

As you are reviewing the 'Home in Tacoma-Phase 2' housing plans materials/Planners' presentations and TPAG discussion memo, I request that you keep these unanswered questions in mind:

(1) WHY is there no inclusion/discussion of the impacts of the Bridge Industrial project on the housing development in Tacoma (and, tree retention, climate condition) plans in Tacoma overall?

I have been told by several Planners that this Bridge Industrial project is a PAST DECISION!

Please remember that no EIS nor any HIA was done for this massive project! This major project WILL have major impacts on Tacoma. But, the Planners and the City officials prefer to ignore this situation entirely. Does this seem like an example of responsible behavior..OR, reckless behavior?

(2) 'Climate Change' and 'Equity'..are these issues even a consideration with Housing Development Plans in Tacoma?

(3) WHY is this 'Home in Tacoma-Phase 2' proposal still being pushed through for a City Council vote so quickly? We still have no results from the 'Final Environmental Impact Study'. To be honest, if the impacts from the Bridge Industrial project are not included in this Final EIS, how valid would these Home in Tacoma-Phase 2' study results be?

What is the rush..the City Planners have HB 1110 already in place to address housing development plans in Tacoma. This is not an emergency situation!

(Please pay close attention to WHAT TYPE OF CHANGES are really being proposed with the 'Phase 2' part of this proposal...relating to PDS Dept permitting decisions and processes primarily.)

(4) WHO is really benefitting from this housing proposal? Not the Tacoma residents..

Please do not allow this 'Home in Tacoma-Phase 2 project' get pushed through for a Council vote without a complete study of this project completed. Slow this process down
Please listen to your constituents!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie (Raine) Urwin
South Tacoma resident

Home in Tacoma

Finding housing that is affordable has become harder, especially for the 40 percent of Tacoma residents who are housing cost burdened and it's getting harder. Housing not only meets our need for shelter—it also connects us with family, friends, community, transportation, employment and more, which matters to our health, wellbeing and prosperity.

What We've Done: Vision + policy direction (Phase 1)

To meet our housing affordability goals it is essential for us to make space for diverse housing types and take actions to manage growth and combat displacement.

To address this need, Phase 1 policies call for the City to:

- Promote a range of housing options in Tacoma's neighborhoods
- Expand regulatory and incentive-based affordable housing tools
- Establish an anti-displacement strategy to help lower-income residents stay in growing neighborhoods
- Promote access to housing and wealth-building, particularly for people of color
- Expand Tacoma's Multifamily Tax Exemption program

Getting Housing Growth Right: Zoning and implementation (Phase 2)

Housing is about building great neighborhoods for people of all incomes, ages and backgrounds.

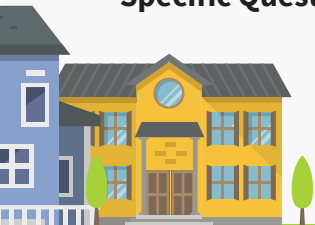
The next phase of public engagement will consider:

- Zoning changes to allow diverse housing types citywide
- Design standards updates to ensure that infill housing complements neighborhoods
- Actions to ensure infrastructure and services are adequate to support growth
- Actions to address the potential demolition of viable structures
- Actions to create green, sustainable and resilient housing
- Actions to promote housing that is physically accessible
- Improvements to City permitting and processes
- Education and technical support for housing developers and the public

How to Participate

Engagement for Phase 2 is occurring now. Learn more about the project and timeline at cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma.

Specific Question? Contact us at homeintacoma@cityoftacoma.org.



From: J Corso <jcorso695@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:47 PM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy
Cc: Carey, Mike; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Catalpa removed at 1201 Division Ave.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

A reply is requested.

Through the grapevine, I'm hearing that I'm not alone in my sadness and anger about the removal of the Catalpa tree at 1201 Division Ave last week.

Hopefully, the recently updated TMC 9.20 Urban Forestry code will reduce the likelihood of the removal of healthy street trees like this catalpa.

Requested Action #1: Please consider initiating an investigation into whether the permit applicant made false claims on the permit application regarding the condition of the tree and consequently the claim that the tree was a public safety hazard. Catalpa trees are highly valued for their natural resistance to rot, so much so that the wood is highly valued for making fence posts and outdoor furniture. Further, there's no evidence of rot in photos of the tree before (Feb. 22, 2024) and after (March 22, 2024) it was cut-down. See the links below to photos. It appears that this catalpa was still as solid as a rock. If the city determines that the permit applicant lied on the permit application, please consider debating taking steps to deter this misbehavior in the future.

 [Catalpa at Frisko Freeze 02252024.pdf](#)

 [Catalpa at Frisko Freeze 03222024.pdf](#)

Requested Action #2: Please consider filing a Council Consideration Request outlawing the bucking of urban trees (i.e., cutting the trunk and major branches into small pieces). When urban trees do become public safety hazards, they must be proactively removed. However, the fact that a tree has reached the end of its lifecycle doesn't mean that its garbage and must be hauled off to the landfill and/or burned. You have declared a climate crisis, and urban trees sequester carbon, so it makes little sense to dispose of these trees in a way that promotes the release of carbon and methane into the atmosphere.

Instead, I propose the city proactively notify area sawmills of permit applications to remove trees that are certified as a public safety hazard, and give them to opportunity to make arrangements to "log" the urban forest using their trucks and cranes. Given market demand for wood, and given the high market value of many species of urban trees, area sawmills will likely be able to figure-out a way to log the urban forest and make a profit.

For example, the market value of catalpa lumber is surprisingly high. For example, the current retail value of a small piece of catalpa (2'x5"x1") is ~\$28. Large boards (4.5'x10"x1") of catalpa retail for ~\$108. I found one very large piece (13'x2.5'x3") offered for \$1,200. For more details, consider visiting:

- https://www.cookwoods.com/collections/catalpa?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI50ih5ZSQhQMVJzWtBh1AWACUEAAYBCAAEgIkPvD_BwE
- https://www.etsy.com/listing/1473194649/rare-catalpa-slab-128-x-32-x-3-bar-top?gpla=1&gao=1&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping_us_a-home_and_living-furniture-dining_room_furniture-kitchen_and_dining_tables&utm_custom1=k_EAlaIQobChMIjaTu3b6QhQMVmh-tBh0pkQ5gEAQYAiABEgI0m_D_BwE_k_&utm_content=go_12574416432_120844855578_507798951327_pla-305291086702_c_1473194649_254611753&utm_custom2=12574416432&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIjaTu3b6QhQ

[MVmh-tBh0pkQ5gEAQYAiABEgI0m_D_BwE](https://www.wood-database.com/catalpa/)

As I mentioned above, catalpas are highly valued for their rot resistance. In addition to being useful fence posts (because they rot very slowly when in contact with the ground), catalpa wood is useful for making furniture, musical instruments, and objects of art.

For examples of catalpa furniture, consider visiting:

- <https://www.wayfair.com/furniture/pdp/canora-grey-shonia-storage-credenza-cagy6108.html?piid=>
- https://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/c/outdoor-tables/outdoor-side-tables?t=7919&featuredproduct=35995989&featuredooption=69454695&ci_sku=40062743-000-000&cnc=US&cid=323904&type=pla&targetid=&track=pspla&utm_source=google&utm_medium=pspla&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlJaTu3b6QhQMVMh-tBh0pkQ5gEAQYASABEgLCkVd_BwE
- https://woodweb.com/knowledge_base/Characteristics_and_Value_of_Catalpa_Wood.html
- <https://www.wallenfangs.com/product-page/catalpa-wood-library-table-and-bench-wood-art-furniture>

For examples of catalpa art, consider visiting:

- <https://www.wood-database.com/catalpa/>
- https://www.toshay.org/products/black-catalpa-solid-wood-carving-following-base-w-151-specification-2?utm_campaign=gs-2018-10-10&utm_source=google&utm_medium=smart_campaign&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIqObChMI5Oih5ZSQhQMvJzWtBh1AWACUEAAYBSAAEgJg8fD_BwE¤cy=USD
- https://www.etsy.com/listing/1612787033/handmade-catalpa-wood-bowl?gpla=1&gao=1&&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping_us_a-home_and_living-kitchen_and_dining-dining_and_serving-bowls&utm_custom1=_k_EAlaIqObChMlJaTu3b6QhQMVMh-tBh0pkQ5gEAQYAyABEgJSxPD_BwE_k_&utm_content=go_1843970809_73688709590_346364631978_pla-307841174116_c_1612787033_12768591&utm_custom2=1843970809&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlJaTu3b6QhQMVMh-tBh0pkQ5gEAQYAyABEgJSxPD_BwE

For examples of catalpa guitars, consider visiting:

- https://www.ebay.com/itm/266402872434?chn=ps&_trkparms=ispr%3D1&amdata=enc%3A1cWbdtNwbR46LnNbsNVHdSw56&norover=1&mkevt=1&mkrld=711-117182-37290-0&mkcld=2&mksclid=101&itemid=266402872434&targetid=1587262743537&device=c&mkttype=pla&googleloc=9030796&p_oi=&campaignid=20389486948&mkgroupid=154370925111&rlsatarget=pla-1587262743537&abclid=9316498&merchantid=6296724&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlpg_w_ryQhQMvJxqtBh0Usg5hEAQYBCABEgJmVvD_BwE
- https://reverb.com/item/77327592-telecaster-catalpa?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=17682351984&utm_content=campaignid=17682351984_adgroupid=143800496052_productpartitionid=1946021698791=merchantid=5089241641_productid=77327592_keyword=_device=c_adposition=_matchtype=_creative=608998621633&gad_source=5&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlpg_w_ryQhQMvJxqtBh0Usg5hEAQYASABEgJXK_D_BwE

Urban trees have many benefits in addition to sequestering carbon. At the end of an urban tree's lifecycle, it makes no sense to buck it and haul it to the landfill and/or burn it, releasing carbon back into the atmosphere. Similar to the Deconstruction Council Consideration Request, prioritizing the milling of urban trees at the end of their lifecycle extends the sequestering of carbon in useful and beautiful things.

Geoff
John Geoffrey Corso
701 N J St, Tacoma

From: Melanie Moor <heronmel50@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:44 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Permit Advisory Group

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

How can you possibly think that building new structures is more important than the trees that make it possible for us to breathe etc?

I don't need to list the reasons trees are necessary for human survival - I think you already know.

Making tree retention optional will make trees (and life) the last option when money is on the line.

We are no longer a timber city! Tacoma has a terrible reputation - people believe that Tacoma does not care about beauty and health and our environment and I'm one of them.

Prove me wrong.

We can and WE MUST care more about our environment than the development which threatens to decrease our tree canopy even worse than the current 20% canopy (not including Point Defiance).

Please don't allow "progress" and greed be our legacy.

Melanie Moor

Member of TUFF - (Tacoma Urban Forest Friends)

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 4:05 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Ushka, Catherine; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy
Subject: Re: 3/26/24 Community Forum comments

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

PS ~ Counter to PAG's statement (which also conveniently left off the energy and waste due to disposal of large trees, not to mention the urban wildlife ecosystem loss),
USGS dispels PAG's "young tree carbon benefit" theory:

"This finding contradicts the usual assumption that tree growth eventually declines as trees get older and bigger," says Nate Stephenson, the study's lead author and a forest ecologist with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center. "It also means that big, old trees are better at absorbing carbon from the atmosphere than has been commonly assumed.... This continuously increasing growth rate means that on an individual basis, large, old trees are better at absorbing carbon from the atmosphere."

This Council was elected to represent residents, not to follow every suggestion for assuring one industry's profit at the expense of all logical planning and others' health, environment and basic livability.

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:51 PM
To: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org <cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org>
Cc: srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org <srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org>; jscott8@cityoftacoma.org <jscott8@cityoftacoma.org>; catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org <catherine.ushka@cityoftacoma.org>; kdaniels@cityoftacoma.org <kdaniels@cityoftacoma.org>; odiaz@cityoftacoma.org <odiaz@cityoftacoma.org>
Subject: 3/26/24 Community Forum comments

I was horrified to read the Permit Advisory Group memorandum, buried in the City Manager's report of this week's Study Session... not only for what it's saying, but also that it hadn't been made available before the recent HIT2 public hearing.

This group (of mostly handpicked developers) is directing the City Council to:

- Make tree retention optional (claiming that retaining trees will be even less equitable using one questionable graph regarding young trees being better for the environment; yet mentioning nothing about trees aiding in air, water, soil, traffic calming, mental health, basic livability, etc.)
- Give the Planning Department the power to change the code without a vote of the City Council.

The first is disturbing, the second is downright chilling.

It's a blatant grab for even more power, asking you (City Council) to further ignore how much PDS already abuses their position.

You, this council, do have the ability to make emergency changes if/when/as needed (if only you ever would) without turning that over to PDS – do not give up your (and the public's rights) to an already out-of-control Planning Department.

HeidiGS@hotmail.com

From: Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:51 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Ushka, Catherine; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy
Subject: 3/26/24 Community Forum comments

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HeidiGS@hotmail.com

From: Georgette Reuter <gee.reuter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:40 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Reply About the Tacoma Permit Advisory Group's March 8, 2024 Letter

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Oh, Boo Hoo!! So Sad!!

Such a sad state of affairs that developers have been handed the City of Tacoma on a **silver platter** with **NO IMPACT FEES** and **tax breaks galore** and now they have the gall to complain that Home in Tacoma Phase 2 has some requirements for tree retention on their future sites for multi-family housing!! REALLY??!

We Should All Feel Embarrassed by Our City's Low Tree Canopy

I just read through the March 8, 2024 Memorandum letter that was sent from the Tacoma Permit Advisory Group to the Tacoma Planning Commission and City Council. And if I were one of the writers of this letter, I would be utterly **embarrassed** by what was written! Why? Because at a measly 20%, Tacoma has the lowest tree canopy of any city in the Puget Sound region - and, instead of creating solutions to improve Tacoma's tree canopy goal of 30% by 2030, the Permit Advisory Group wrongly claims that "tree canopy coverage requirements impair affordable housing developments". Really??! Then how do other cities protect and increase their tree canopy and still find ways to create new housing? If other cities can do it, why can't Tacoma??

The Creation of a Sense of Panic - Driven By Profits??

By using a **scare tactic** such as "We must build 3,750 new units per year for the next 16 years, which is about four times our current rate of housing production. We cannot quadruple housing production without prioritizing it." "Tree canopy coverage requirements impair affordable housing development."

What are Tacoma's True Priorities?

Priorities, they say? **Shouldn't the health and well being of our City be our top priority?** We are no longer living in the late 1800's when Tacoma was known as the "Lumber Capital of the World". At that time, every square inch of our City was **clearcut!!** Now, it's over 150 years later and we all understand the health and economic benefits of our trees - yet, the developers intend to continue clearcutting their lots instead of using their resources and ingenuity to think of creative ways to save our valuable mature trees *and* build more housing.

How are the Developers Planning for Our Increasingly Hot Summers?

With their plan to have no trees to shade their building sites, do the developers plan to install AC units in every housing unit? Or do they expect their tenants to swelter and possibly die during the coming summers as climate change causes our summers to become hotter and hotter?

Do Developers Acknowledge that Our Trees are a Valuable Infrastructure?

And do they believe that Tacoma needs to accomplish its goal of 30% tree canopy by 203? If their answer is 'yes' to both questions, then they need to tell us *their* plan of how we should increase our city-wide tree canopy. Because, if they recommend that we disregard the Landscaping Code portion of Home in Tacoma Phase 2, what plan would they like to replace it with?

What are Developers Giving Back to Our City??

Everything that the developers intend to do seems to be for the benefit of the 60,000 people who they say will be moving here. But what about those of us who already live here? What are we getting out of this ongoing housing building? What we see are established neighborhoods with older homes being demolished and trees being cut down. So what (if anything) are developers giving back to our community?? Without any impact fees and all of the tax breaks they are being given, I don't see us residents receiving any benefits....oh wait! Here's a benefit they could give us: Save our valuable mature trees to make them an integral part of the multi-family housing site. Is that really asking too much?

About me....

I'm a 50+ resident of Tacoma, a retired teacher with Tacoma Public Schools. And among my volunteer activities, I'm a Board

member of NENC, Steering Committee member for the Proctor Neighborhood Plan and a member of the Tacoma Urban Forest Friends advocacy group. My family history in Tacoma goes back to the late 1800's.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

We *can* and *should* have housing **AND** trees. Together, let's make it work!

Georgette Reuter

James Reuter

From: Joe Hunich <joehunich@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2024 7:36 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Tacoma City Council Resolution for Ceasefire in Gaza

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

I am writing today to call upon our City Council to take clear action to address the crisis of human rights violations and war crimes in Palestine. My desire is to see this Council pass an official resolution that, at the very least, calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and full access of humanitarian aid into the region. I would love to see it go even further and also call for an end to U.S. military aid to Israel as well as an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and war crimes that fall under the definition of genocide, but I don't understand why our Council has been so reluctant to, at the very least, say that the killing has to stop.

I recognize that this current invasion of Gaza began as a response to attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023, that resulted in 1,139 Israeli lives and many hostages taken as well. I mourn the loss of Israeli life in that attack, while also recognizing the historical background of forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during and after the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, and the ongoing occupation of the area by Israeli military and settlements. Israel's current "response" has resulted in over 31,000 Palestinians being killed, including an estimated 13,000 thousand children. For local context that would be about half of all Tacoma Public Schools students. An additional 80,000 more are injured or missing, which equates to more than a third of Tacoma's population.

Infrastructure has been absolutely destroyed. Homes, businesses, hospitals, schools have been completely leveled, and a majority of Gazans are now facing starvation.

Though we may not be able to agree on how to create lasting peace, I hope we can all agree that the loss of life must stop now. We cannot continue to go on with "business as usual" as thousands of our fellow humans are dying everyday. Especially while we live in the United States, a nation that continues to provide weapons and financial support to the Israeli military.

I've read the statement Councilmember Daniels released, and heard Mayor Woodards say the Council is working with a local rabbi and imam to "bring something forward". I respect the effort for interfaith collaboration and a thoughtful "community-led" statement, and yet it's been a couple weeks since those comments were made and we still haven't seen anything. Meanwhile Palestinians continue to suffer in Gaza, while many residents here continue to write and show up with requests for our city to stand in solidarity and call for a ceasefire.

Several local governments like Seattle, Olympia, Bellingham, and San Juan and Jefferson counties have already passed ceasefire resolutions. Let's live into our city's stated values of Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Equity, and fulfill our vision of being "an attractive and progressive international city..." and stand with our brothers and sisters across the globe calling for a ceasefire in Gaza today.

Thank You,

Joe Hunich
15+ year Tacoma Resident
Tacoma Public Schools Parent
Employee at Tacoma-based nonprofit

From: Joy Dworkin <joy.dworkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 1:09 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written Comment -- Ceasefire

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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These comments fall under the "Community Forum" portion of the City Council's agenda and concern public calls for the council to endorse a Ceasefire resolution. Thank you for your attention.

I appreciate the council's intention to craft a ceasefire resolution that truly represents Tacoma. I understand that, toward that end, there have been meetings with Muslim and Jewish religious leaders. Such leaders likely have important relevant perspectives and they likely can represent the perspectives of some in the Tacoma community.

However, as a Jewish person, I want to point out that it would be a huge mistake to believe that a local rabbi speaks on my behalf or on the behalf of a majority of Jews. Yes, I am Jewish, and my DNA is over 99% that of an Ashkenazi Jew, but like many Jews I am not religious and do not attend synagogue. (I do not know the figures for Tacoma specifically, but the PEW Research Center points out that a minority of American Jews in fact regularly attend synagogue.)

Although I have never been religious, I was active in a Jewish congregation for years, due to my love for Jewish tradition. One of the reasons I stopped belonging to that congregation was that the community was Zionist, and as an anti-Zionist, I became more and more uncomfortable. There are many Jews who, like me (and like major human rights organizations such as Amnesty International), recognize that Israel is an apartheid state. We understand that its political system is therefore undemocratic and that as an ethnocracy its ideology is inherently racist.

Why is US support for the current carnage and suffering in Gaza of concern to Tacoma? Each year, of the 3.8 billion that the US provides in military aid to Israel, well over 3 million dollars are from Tacoma taxpayers. <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/> This year, with the unconscionable increase in the amount of US aid, Tacoma taxpayers are spending much more than that.

It is absolutely essential that the Tacoma City Council draft a ceasefire resolution that includes a call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, a return of all hostages held in Gaza, an end to US military aid to Israel, and denouncement of anti-Arab, antisemitic and Islamophobic racism. My hope is that the resolution would also articulate that Tacoma stands for international and humanitarian law by urging 1) an end to Israel's occupation, 2) an end to its apartheid system, 3) support for Palestinian self-determination, and 4) the right of Palestinian return — all of which are necessary for a just and ultimately stable and secure future in the region.

Sincerely,
Joy Dworkin
1214 N. Tacoma Avenue
(417) 483-3180

From: Kyle Berggren <kberggren@costco.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:41 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Home in Tacoma Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Home In Tacoma proposed code amendments. Much of this work is well done and you can see the Cities attempt to balance public comment with state mandates. I have two primary comments and requested amendments.

First: the transition bulk stands related to boundaries between zones, identify an access to light plan that angles up at a 45 degree angle starting at the height of the zone. This transition should start at the height of the adjacent zone. For example if the urban 3 is adjacent to Urban 1, the height of Urban 3 should be set at 25 feet and go up at the angle as proposed in the code. If the height starts at 45 feet identified in the Urban 3 zone that effectively does not provide a transition.

Second: Access to light is also extremely important to ensure access to a property owner to utilize solar power. Many existing homes have invested in solar and building codes, rebates, federal and state programs support these efforts. As we focus on our climate crisis we need to balance housing and climate to ensure an equitable and healthy future for generations to come. Ensuring new developments do not shade or prohibit an individual's ability to install solar on their home is important to balancing these competing goals. The access to light plan should consider this in the regulations, which does not appear to be contemplated by this draft. It will take all of us to ensure we slow global warming, let's make sure we all have the option to participate in the collective good.

Finally, thank you so much for requiring parking from alleys. To ensure we have a walkable community this is an important step. To that end, I do not think a pedestrian walkway from an alley accessed backyard unit is necessary provided the alley connects to the roadway. Walking through our alley is common and safe and more direct to the road than providing a connection through the street front lot.

Thank you,

Kyle Berggren
Project Specialist
Costco Wholesale
425.313.6749

From: Sallie Shawl <awestruckbigtime@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 2:55 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Written comment ceasefire
Attachments: Tacoma City Council letter HINES.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello.

FYI, for the number of comments: Yesterday I sent a letter very much like the attached letter to members of the City Council.

Sallie Shawl

--

*****Youtube I filmed on the West Bank:**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1skU_nVaMl8

Full text of Esack letter:

<https://electronicintifada.net/content/injury-one/8223>

If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy.
If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem.
But I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world,
And a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.
E.B. White

Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.

Leonard Cohen

Patti Smith at Nobel Prize Ceremony singing Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=941PHEJHCwU>

March 23, 2024

Dear Deputy Mayor Hines,

I'm writing with a couple of things on my mind, all related to the proposed ceasefire resolution. Apologies in advance for the length of this letter, but I am trying to give you more context while you consider this issue.

My major concern is that the council apparently believes this war has a religious basis, since Mayor Woodards mentioned "bringing forward something to this council that is crafted by both of them [Rabbi Keren Gorban and Dr Mohamed of the Islamic Center of Tacoma]." Giving so much credence and power to the opinions of the rabbi and the imam implies two things, both of which are wrong: (1) that the current situation in Israel/Palestine has religious animosity at its foundation, and just as importantly (2) that these clergy are "directly representing those members of our community," when, in fact, "those members of our community" are not at all necessarily represented by clergy. As several people said at the council meeting last Tuesday, reliance on clergy input fosters and bolsters the misconception and misunderstanding that the issues underlying the slaughter in Gaza are religiously based.

As background: I am Jewish, and I am extremely critical of Israel. How did that happen? I was raised to support Israel, lock stock & barrel. Then, in the mid-1980's I met a Palestinian family in Tacoma, and upon hearing their story of having been forced from their home and never being compensated and never being allowed to return, I thought immediately of my Uncle Richard who, in Austria in the 1930's, was forced from his home and never compensated and never allowed to return to it. And I also thought of the similarities with the indigenous people of the Americas. At first I was skeptical of this story of displacement by Jews ("my people would never do such a thing..."), but I did a bunch of reading, and long-story-short, I've been quite active in seeking justice and human rights for Palestinians ever since.

And that is one of the main reasons I'm not affiliated with Temple Beth El: because deep criticism of Israel and questioning of Zionism can't be voiced there without consequences, and for me, being implicitly silenced in the face of such horrific injustice is not an option. Likewise for MANY Jews in Tacoma. I've had cordial relationships with all the rabbis there since I moved here in 1975 (spending time with Rabbi Rosenthal in his office, talking about this, having worked closely with Rabbi Bruce Kadden on an interfaith youth camp post 9/11, and still being in touch with Rabbi Mark Glickman who left Tacoma in 2004), and they all have known where I stand on Israel. But I, like many Jews all around the country, and even more so in the state of Washington, if "unchurched" percentages in the state include Jews, don't affiliate and do not at all feel represented by local rabbis.

During my 22 years at Associated Ministries as Director of Paint Tacoma/Pierce Beautiful, I learned that Christians often "shop around" for a new church when their pastor retires, looking for a pastor and congregation that meets their needs, deciding factors being variable. Well, for local Jews, the tone and tenor of both the rabbi and the congregation at Temple Beth El vis a vis Israel is super important, and in a place like Tacoma, with only one 'mainline' congregation (there is another one now, maybe for the past 20 years, that is ultra-orthodox, aka fundamentalist and quite small), MANY local Jews are what is called "unaffiliated." I do have some friends who drive all the way to Seattle to a congregation there that is friendly to criticism of Israel, but that's *a long* way to go, so most people are just unaffiliated.

One other important factor: many Palestinians in the U.S. are Christians. (The family I met in the 1980's attended St Charles Borromeo.) Prior to the formation of the state of Israel, 143,000 Palestinians (a little more than 7% of the population) there were Christians. Other than the early Jewish converts to what became Christianity, the first Christians were Palestinians. (A really good movie that focuses on this AND

the relatively current situation is The Stones Cry Out (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YyuujlgZE&t=12s>). I have the DVD and would love to loan it to you if you're interested; I believe it's also available to stream online.)

To be relying on institutional religious leaders to draft something that supposedly represents the citizens of Tacoma is truly off-base. Yes, getting their input along with many others' is appropriate, but to require that the resolution pass muster with them is misguided.

Circling back to my saying above that this is *not* a religious conflict, I and most political analysts believe that the current war and all the mess there is over *land* and geopolitics. It is in Israel's interest to have us believe it is religious, because then the West will side with them, given the tragic history of antisemitism in the West.

A VERY short history re the land: Theodore Herzl, the 'father of Zionism,' wrote in the 1890's about "spiriting away the penniless population," and David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, wrote in 1947, just a few days after the U.N. voted for partition, that "There can be no stable and strong Jewish state so long as it has a Jewish majority of only 60 percent." In writing about a 1937 letter Ben Gurion wrote to his son, Israeli Rabbi Chaim Simons has written, "But at no point during the 1930s and 1940s did Ben-Gurion ever go on record against the idea or policy of transfer. On the contrary, Ben-Gurion left a paper trail a mile long as to his actual thinking, and no amount of ignoring, twisting and turning, manipulation, contortion, and distortion can blow it away." Simons continues by providing his own evidence that Ben-Gurion favored the transfer of Arabs (i.e., Palestinians), dating back to 1938.

When I was in Israel in 2010, an Israeli peace activist told me that Israel is interested in conflict *management*, not conflict *resolution*, because if there were resolution, they would have to declare borders. Conflict management, on the other hand, allows them to continue pushing the envelope by building new settlements (illegal under both international AND Israeli law), leading to de facto annexation, with current talk of *official* annexation, all in violation of the Geneva Conventions that say, "protected persons who are in occupied territory shall not be deprived of their rights as the result of the occupation nor by any agreement concluded between the authorities of the occupied territories and the Occupying Power, **nor by any annexation by the Occupying Power of the whole or part of the occupied territory.**" [emphasis added]

But wait! There's more! (sorry...) Here are a couple more factors clarifying why the slaughter in Gaza is NOT religiously based:

- Antisemitism as we know it is a European phenomenon. Jews and Muslims and Christians lived without killing each other for centuries together in the Middle East, whereas in Europe (which includes Russia), Jews were under constant threat. On the contrary, there are loads of references throughout history on Muslims and Jews living together in harmony. ("During [waves of persecution in Medieval Europe](#), many [Jews found refuge](#) in Muslim lands.^[1]")
- It wasn't until the state of Israel came into existence in 1948, after Jewish militia in 1947-8 had forcibly removed approximately 750,000 Palestinians from their town and villages (more than 400 towns and villages were "depopulated"), that other Arab countries, in solidarity with their Arab brothers and sisters, either kicked out the Jews in those countries or made life so unbearable that they left; the point was, if you stole the land for Jews, then Jews should go there. BUT if the land had been stolen for Chinese to come and settle, then they would have kicked out the Chinese. It was a sort of payback, i.e., those actions weren't antisemitic per se but rather the response to a violent theft. I say this not to excuse what those other Arab countries did but rather as an explanation, and to try to help you understand that it's not a religious conflict. Israel would love us to believe it is, because then our sympathies with Jews vis a vis antisemitism kicks in. And that is their agenda, to keep the West in lock-step with their hideous policies and treatment of Palestinians. I just looked in Wikipedia and was pleased to find this, substantiating the above:

“In the 20th century, approximately 900,000 Jews migrated, fled, or were expelled from Muslim-majority countries throughout Africa and Asia. Primarily a consequence of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, the mass movement mainly transpired from 1948 to the early 1970s, with one final exodus of Iranian Jews occurring shortly after the Islamic Revolution in 1979–1980. An estimated 650,000 (72%) of these Jews resettled in Israel.^[1] “

And now back to the ceasefire resolution: The point of the resolution is to express concern that we want this slaughter to stop immediately, and secondly, it is to call on the President and our statewide and local members of Congress to do all in their power to get an immediate and permanent ceasefire along with humanitarian aid and open corridors for that aid, AND, of course, a hostage/prisoner swap.

LASTLY, I have a bit of **an amended “ask” from what so many people are asking relative to U.S. funding** of Israel, and that is for the resolution to call for stopping *unconditional military funding* immediately, in accordance with **current U.S. law, i.e., U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, U.S. Arms Export Control Act**, the Leahy Law (see below for short descriptions), and now the Humanitarian Aid Corridors Act, the latter mentioned yesterday during an interview with Senator Chris Van Hollen (D, Maryland) in which he said that he and several other Senators had just written to Biden, saying (copy/pasted from interview transcript):

“Mr. President, please enforce current law, which is the Humanitarian Aid Corridors Act, which says that if a country is essentially preventing or restricting humanitarian assistance from getting in, then you have to, Mr. President, not allow offensive weapons to be provided, as long as that situation continues.”

If you’d like, I would be more than happy to sit down and talk with you about all of this.

And apologies for such a long letter, but I felt the need to go into some detail; thanks for taking the time to read it.

Onward toward the resolution!

Sallie

Sallie Shawl

253-606-5017

Awestruckbigtime@gmail.com

NOTES:

US Arms Export Control Act –which **prohibits the use of US weapons against civilians**

US Foreign Assistance Act – which **prohibits assistance to any country which “engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.”**

1 (A)(i) None of the funds appropriated
 2 under the heading "Economic Support Fund"
 3 in this Act may be made available for assistance
 4 for the Palestinian Authority, if after the date
 5 of enactment of this Act—

6 (I) the Palestinians obtain the same
 7 standing as member states or full member-
 8 ship as a state in the United Nations or
 9 any specialized agency thereof outside an
 10 agreement negotiated between Israel and
 11 the Palestinians; or

12 (II) the Palestinians initiate an Inter-
 13 national Criminal Court (ICC) judicially
 14 authorized investigation, or actively sup-
 15 port such an investigation, that subjects
 16 Israeli nationals to an investigation for al-
 17 leged crimes against Palestinians.

18 (ii) The Secretary of State may waive the
 19 restriction in clause (i) of this subparagraph re-
 20 sulting from the application of subclause (I) of
 21 such clause if the Secretary certifies to the
 22 Committees on Appropriations that to do so is
 23 in the national security interest of the United
 24 States, and submits a report to such Commit-
 25 tees detailing how the waiver and the continu-

Theresa
POWER DUTIS

3/26/24 community
forum

Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

www.pchomeless.org

info@pchomeless.org



March 26, 2024

To: Tacoma City Council

RE: amici curiae/Grants Pass

Dear Mayor Woodard and Members of the Tacoma City Council

On April 22, 2024, the Supreme Court of the United States will begin reviewing the decision of the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, that municipalities are not allowed to make it a crime to sleep outside if no inside space is available. The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness is opposed to criminalizing homelessness on both humanitarian and practical grounds. We agree with the City of Tacoma's assessment ([Homelessness Strategy 2022-2028](#)) that the rise in homelessness is occurring "largely as a result of population growth and low supply in the housing market." The strategy document goes on to say:

"Homelessness remains a central issue across Tacoma as the conditions that contribute to homelessness have continued to worsen due to the housing affordability crisis and the two pandemics of this time period, COVID-19, and racism."

Neither our low housing supply nor the other conditions cited in the Homeless Strategy will be solved by putting more people in jail or imposing fines on the poorest citizens in our city. The solution to homelessness is attainable housing for everyone.

As constituents of a progressive city, we are astounded to see that Tacoma signed on to the amici curiae in support of Grants Pass. Former City Attorney, William Fosbre signed the brief in our name as did the National League of Cities (NLC). Tacoma is a member of NLC and Mayor Victoria Woodards is the Immediate Past President of this organization. Constituents - particularly those most affected by the loss of protections - were not informed of these briefs put forward by our representatives and we were certainly not provided an opportunity for public comment.

The Grants Pass challenge tells us that municipalities will be able to "explore other tools in their legislative toolbox" if SCOTUS overrules protections that "handcuff local policymakers." If there is a solution that Tacoma has not tried due to the minimal protections guaranteed by the 9th Circuit, why haven't we heard about it?

There is no short-cut or easy solution to the problem of inadequate shelter and services for the most vulnerable people in our community. Criminalizing homelessness does not exempt us from the hard work of solving the underlying problems and providing access to the housing and services we all need.

A note about learning from experience:

The current City of Tacoma camping ban, with its stated goal of increasing safety and stability for all, is a failed experiment. The ban has resulted in reduced community stability and less effective interventions. Outreach workers lose contact with unsheltered people when they are moved from place to place in a pointless, repetitive cycle. People lose survival gear and connections with others with each move. Pierce County saw a 78% increase in the number of people who died while homeless in 2023 with 295 people being accounted for by the Pierce County Medical Examiner during last year – a time period that coincides with Tacoma’s implementation of the camping ban. In short, unhoused people are suffering and dying as a result of the City’s failed camping ban policy and its current enforcement. We acknowledge the increase in drug overdoses may help explain part of this increase, but we also know that some deaths could have been prevented if victims had not lost critical support networks as a direct result of displacement.

Support for Grants Pass v. Johnson is not only inconsistent with best practice, it is in direct opposition to the stated goals of Tacoma’s own strategy to address homelessness. Rescinding support for the Grants Pass petition is an important step toward walking the talk.

Sincerely,

Rob Huff
Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Jacoma Council Meeting
March 26, 2024

Public Forum Carole Sue Braaten

pg 1 of

Home In Jacoma ^{Phase 2} Draft Environmental
Impact Statement / DEIS and Puget Sound
Energy ^{Part of} Liquefied Natural Gas / LNG Facility
Final Environmental Impact Statement

To my knowledge I am the only person
that has a Hardcopy of Home In Jacoma
Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact
Statement / DEIS at the Jacoma Open
House. Hard ~~copy~~ ^{paper} copies were not made
available to citizens and Jacoma Council ^{members}
a like. I had to repeatedly ask for
a hard paper copy. Everyone at Home In
Jacoma should have had paper hardcopies
to read. Parts of Title Land Use - Geological ^{Hazards}

Missing out of Home In Jacoma Phase 2 ^{Critical areas}
Draft Environmental Impact Statement / DEIS ^{intensity}
and in the Puget Sound Energy ^{Part of Jacoma} Liquefied
Natural Gas / LNG Final Environmental
Impact Statement / FEIS are all the ⁱⁿ
maps of Geological Hazards - defined ^{RCW 36.70A}
by the State of Washington as land
not suited to use as residential, commercial
or industrial. This is because the
land is too dangerous or poses an
imminent threat to human life and
welfare. Jacoma has Tsunami Hazard,
Liquefaction soils that can cause buildings
to sink, topple and collapse. ^{national} building
code prohibits build in in these areas,
Jacoma has 2 earthquake faultlines, Landslide/
Deiche hazard, Volcano Eruption / Lahar / mud flow

the Growth
Management
Act

Jacoma Council Meeting March 26, 2024
Public Form
Carole Sue Braaten

pg 2 of

debris flow, Erosion Hazard, Seismic Hazard. none of these danger and Hazards are show the Propose Zoning Districts as Lands Unsuitable for building. Draft.

I am asking that a New Environmental Impact Statement for PSE LNB, Since the City Planning Dept Revising the Final Environmental Impact Statement after the FEIS was official closed and could not be added to the city add documents that had to be in Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements, the missing Jacoma Fire Chief Duggans explosion maps, the missing 190 scenarios that all going vastly off site never provide to me or to the city, all the missing engineering seals documents and more.

Attn: City of Tacoma, Mayor Council

March 26, 2024

From: Kit Burns – kburns.wcb@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Woodards:

The **Home in Tacoma 2** needs to be **paused** so that it can be reviewed and studied and discussed within each Council District.

It is my understanding the City has received over 1,000 comments. For the citizens to be listened to and their concerns considered, a delay of one year prior to adoption is appropriate.

Each Council Member should take the time in their district and within the city to review and explain what HIT2 does to various locations around the City.

The planning department needs to show us what a **35-foot structure** and a **45-foot structure** looks like next to our homes. I suggest that the planning department show at least 4 examples in plan, section, and 3D, of what each district would look like at specific locations.

We need to consider the effects of unintended consequences. Remember that haste makes waste.

Everyone on the City Council should vote NO and not allow this to be adopted without review and consideration. And thoughtful discussion.

There is enough flexibility in our codes that buildings will continue to be built.

TREES – I am horrified if this is true.

It is my understanding that this code, if adopted, will allow building of some structures without requiring any trees. I do not think that is a mis-print. *That alone is sufficient reason to vote NO.*

How can that be? No trees because we are now giving exceptions to multiple projects? Please say it is not true. Remove that from the proposed code. That should not be allowed.

I ask that each of the City Council Members look at what our current code requires and the meager results from the past 29 years.. We are being shortchanged and will never have a tree cover if the code is allowed to persist as it is.

Tomorrow, please review the following Trees along 6th Avenue and nearby:

Evergreen State College	Walgreens' Drug Store	COSTCO at S. Steele
MultiCare Parking	Former Kmart Apt w/no setback	interior parking
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TREES – I am horrified if this is true.

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How can that be? No trees because we are now giving exceptions to multiple projects? Please say it is not true. Remove that from the proposed code. That should not be allowed.

I ask that each of the City Council Members look at what our current code requires and the meager results from the past 29 years.. We are being shortchanged and will never have a tree cover if the code is allowed to persist as it is.

Tomorrow, please review the following Trees along 6th Avenue and nearby:

Evergreen State College	Walgreens' Drug Store	COSTCO at S. Steele
MultiCare Parking	Former Kmart Apt w/no setback	interior parking
Bartell's Drugs	WinCo on 6 th	perimeter parking
AutoZone	Target on Union	Pierce Annex – S35th

Attn: City of Tacoma, Mayor Council

March 26, 2024

From: Kit Burns – kburns.wcb@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Woodards:

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