



City of Tacoma  
W A S H I N G T O N

## District 2 August Update - Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh

City of Tacoma Washington sent this bulletin at 08/07/2022 11:21 AM PDT



Dear District 2 Residents,

Summer started out damp but we are now enjoying beautiful northwest days. I hope you are getting a chance to spend some time outside.

While we are talking about getting out and about this summer, rain or shine, remember we have several commercial areas in District 2 for you to enjoy with some incredible restaurants, shopping and services. Please support businesses in our Neighborhood Business Districts: 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Dome, Old Town, and Stadium; the Downtown Regional Growth Center; and other commercial nodes, including Fawcett and 6<sup>th</sup>, North 26<sup>th</sup> and Alder, Three Bridges, and Dock Street.

If you have wondered why some commercial areas are City-recognized Neighborhood Business Districts, yet others are not, the following information may be helpful.

Neighborhood Business District designation is for a geography that is like a “mini downtown”, with walkable blocks of sidewalk-fronting locally-owned stores surrounded by a neighborhood. According to the Tacoma Municipal Code 1.47, a Neighborhood Business District must fit the following criteria:

- Be located within a designated Neighborhood Commercial Mixed-Use district within the city limits of Tacoma, as set forth in the Comprehensive Plan; OR
- Meet all of the following criteria:
  - Be physically located within the city limits of Tacoma;
  - Contain at least the physical locations of greater than 20 independent, locally owned businesses licensed by the City of Tacoma, each of which is routinely open to the general public;
  - Contain at least five different commercial property ownership interests;

- At least 75 percent of buildings within its boundaries must front on or be adjacent to the sidewalk;
- Be properly zoned for commercial development with such zoning being contiguous;
- Include at least one principle, minor or collector arterial street;
- Have passenger rail, streetcar, or bus access to public transit services, or the prospect of such services in the future, as identified in an adopted City or Pierce Transit policy;
- Be contiguous and compact – be an easily walkable area of not more than 3/8 mile in length containing pedestrian-oriented amenities.

Many of our 15 recognized Neighborhood Business Districts have active non-profit associations where vested stakeholders – business and property owners – come together to work on common issues and goals.

Another option for property owners to organize for coordinated efforts is to form a Business Improvement Area (BIA). A BIA is a public-private partnership that is enacted by City Council under authority of RCW 35.87A. The BIA is funded through an assessment on properties and/or businesses and managed by a board. The dollars raised through the assessment may be used to increase cleanliness, help with the perception of safety, reduce crime, improve a district's image, make public spaces more useable, address parking, and ensure that everyone pays their fair share.

Tacoma has one BIA known as the [Downtown Tacoma Partnership](#). Currently, a consultant is working in four more areas – 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Dome, Hilltop, and South Tacoma business districts to gauge their interest in forming a BIA to work together on their priorities.

Whether you are in a Neighborhood Business District or other commercial node, have an active association or not, or a resident that would like more information about this, please email me [here](#) and I will provide you more details.

Since January, the city has 185 new businesses located in District 2.

Topics in this newsletter:

- [In the Media](#)
- [In the Community](#)
- [Other Newsworthy Items](#)

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## In the Media



I had the wonderful opportunity to be interviewed by Amanda Westbrooke on TV Tacoma's CityLine! I spoke about my priorities as your Council Member and the opportunities that we have as a city to support job growth and help our community members in need. [Watch the interview here.](#)



I also had a great interview with Chris Daniels from “Spotlight on America.” We had a conversation about the Spectator Ordinance (TMC 11.05.133) that my City Council colleagues and I passed in April this year. The interview will air nationally and soon! Stay tuned.

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## **In the Community**



Beacon Center Open House - On July 20, I attended an open house for the Beacon Center Young Adult Shelter with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, Pierce County District 4 Council Member Ryan Mello and retired Seahawk Marcus Trufant. I would like to give a special shoutout to our City of Tacoma Neighborhood and Community Service Department staff as well as the Life Enrichment Group that will be running the shelter. The work that they are doing is truly making a positive impact on our City and I am looking forward to volunteering there soon.



From left to right: City of Tacoma Environmental Services Director Mike Slevin, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, Pierce County District 4 Council Member Ryan Mello, and Tacoma City Council Member Rumbaugh

Biogas Ribbon Cutting – On June 29, I attended the Ribbon Cutting commemorating the operation of Tacoma’s Renewable Natural Gas Plant. The City’s Central Wastewater Treatment Plant is now helping to produce a cleaner-burning fuel in biogas. This renewable fuel is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste. Biogas can be processed and used in a variety of ways including vehicle fuel, heating or generating electricity. Once processed, this biogas is known as Renewable

Natural Gas or RNG. As of June 30, the equivalent of more than 60,000 gallons of diesel have been produced.

This project, completed in early 2022, is an important step towards achieving the City's climate neutrality goal for City operations established by last fall's Climate Action Plan. [Learn more in the City's EnviroTalk magazine.](#)

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## Other Newsworthy Items

Our Downtown Tacoma Partnership won a City of Destiny award for the work they have done to support businesses in the downtown area. You can read about that [here](#).

### **Arsenic Settlement – How Does the Arsenic Plume Impact District 2?**

We received an update at Study Session on the work that the Department of Ecology is doing to remediate the impact of the smelter plant on Tacoma. Point Ruston is on the former site of Asarco, a superfund site that polluted many parts of Tacoma with arsenic. [Here is a link to the Department of Ecology's page for more information. There is little on how it impacted our district, but you can tell from the maps what degree of pollution might be in areas where we live.](#) Feel free to reach out to the staff at the Department of Ecology for more information or to [ask about soil testing](#).

### **Occidental Clean-Up**

The Northeast Neighborhood Council as well as the City Council have received updates on the Occidental clean-up, a 30-acre area in the Tacoma Tidelands that is a Superfund site. You can watch the video that the Department of Ecology has prepared on their plan to keep the plume of chemicals from expanding into Commencement Bay. [Watch the Study Session presentation here \(video starts at 13:12\).](#)

### **Violent Crime Reduction Plan**

Police Chief Avery Moore recently presented the City Council with a Violent Crime Reduction Plan developed by Tacoma Police Department analysts and experienced criminologists from the University of Texas, San Antonio. The plan is comprised of:

Near-term: hot spots policing Mid-term: problem-oriented, place-based policing Long-term: focused deterrence

Twenty-five years of research shows that hot spots policing works, with a 10 to 50 percent reduction in crime. Also, research shows that crime is not simply displaced to neighboring areas. The Tacoma Police Department will NOT employ tactics that involve over-policing, "stop and frisk" or "zero-tolerance policing", but rather a specific approach to minimizing violence in certain areas. By focusing on reducing violent crime in the most violence-prone areas, the department can help reduce not just violent crime but aggregate levels of violence citywide. Review the [Violent Crime Reduction Plan](#), see Chief Moore's [presentation slides](#) and view a [video posted on social media of Chief Moore's presentation](#).

### **Litter Pick-Up on August 14**

Join us for litter pick-up on August 14 at 9 AM along Marine View Drive and other areas on Northeast Tacoma. We will meet at the overflow parking lot across the street from the Cliff House Restaurant. If you have questions, please contact me at [srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:srumbaugh@cityoftacoma.org).

