

I would like to express my support of Gwendolyn "Anne" Artman for Council Position No. 7. I have know Mrs. Artman since 2011 when I exited my internship at DSHS. Since meeting Mrs. Artman, I have seen her dedication to improving the community of Tacoma from child care services, supervised visitation, and substance abuse to now homelessness and access to housing resources. Mrs. Artman is the voice of the city and continues her avocation daily. Mrs. Artman understands the problems that residences of Tacoma are facing today, such has homelessness and the lack of resources to finding proper housing, when Mrs. Artman fills this position, she will work to close that gap!

Why else would I support Mrs. Artman for this position? Well, she has always been very supportive of my career, she hired me as a lead supervisor for the visitation program at MCFHC when I exited my internship which was the jumpstart of my current career of becoming a business owner as well. Mrs. Artman exudes leadership and compassion. I'm awed by seeing a woman, and a black woman might I add, doing things so extremely positive for the community. Her perseverance is inspiration and admirable, so it's natural that I would express my support of her running for Council Position No. 7 for the City of Tacoma.

Sincerely,

Carrie Easley-Lewis

Owner of Connecting Families Visitation, LLC

July 21, 2022

Tacoma City Council  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, Wash. 98402

Dear Tacoma City Council,

It is with immense pleasure and honor to support **Anne Artman's** appointment to the Tacoma City Council.

I was introduced to Anne Artman, over ten years ago and witnessed her compassion and dedication to the greater Tacoma community. She has a strong knowledge and experience, understands community needs, and applies the most effective approaches to combat our greatest concerns, such as homelessness, behavioral health, substance disorders and social injustice.

Ms. Artman has made outstanding contributions to behavioral health and homelessness while she was completing her MS Degree in Behavioral Health and applying her education towards better client services within an environment that fosters compassion, equity, and inclusion with access to service at the forefront of her mission. She has created an excellent relationship with Pierce County Therapeutic Courts, where adults, youth and families receive an opportunity to dismiss or expunge their records, based on behavioral health or drug dependency. This is just one example of her many contributions.

I have been privileged to visit the Tacoma Recovery Center. I have talked with individuals who visit the Center and have witnessed the positive outcomes Anne has been able to achieve in her commitment, her work, and the benefits that have been achieved for the BIPOC community. I respect Anne's work, her commitment, and her dedication to the community. She has garnered knowledge and experience over the years. She has invested time, has expertise in business ownership, and has strong leadership skills and abilities. She has worked endlessly to help the community – especially those furthest from opportunity.

I cannot think of anyone more suited to the position. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions!

Thank you!  
Claire

Claire Wilson  
Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> LD  
[claire.wilson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:claire.wilson@leg.wa.gov)  
206.501.5772

# Laughter Masters

816 South L Street Tacoma, WA. 98405  
(253) 921-1718 Cell  
marioslorenz@gmail.com

July 21, 2022

Council Position No. 7 Vacancy  
Applicant Feedback – 24

To The Tacoma City Council

I have known and worked along side of Anne Artman for several years. She was a member of the Hilltop Business Association, was elected to the Executive Board of Directors, during the time I was the manager of the district. I worked in partnership with her on the Hilltop Street Fair. She is the Executive director and founder of the Recovery Cafe. In this capacity She coordinates volunteers for the festival with the help of her organization and is assisting in many other facets of the event.

Her organization is doing tremendous work in the community providing opportunities to address issues and find a way for persons experiencing substance abuse, mental health issues, and homelessness to recover. She is always present and willing to go the extra mile in working to make the city a better place to live, work, and play.

Knowing this first hand experience with her makes it easy for me to see her as a capable candidate for the Position No. 7 on the City Council. She is forthright, honest and always willing to respond and get her hands dirty when a need arises. What better person to have on the City Council at this time, than a person like Anne Artman that has first hand experience working with those who live in compromised circumstances and are in need of healing.

I personally highly recommend Anne for this vacancy on the city council. She is a number one choice for action at a time when it is sorely needed in Tacoma.

Sincerely,

Mario Lorenz

Owner of Laughter Masters Entertainment  
Manager of South Tacoma Business District Association  
Producer of the Hilltop Street Fair 2022

To All Committee Members

We have had the honor of being connected to Mrs Ann Artman for several decades. My Wife Samella Brown and I proudly endorse her to be apart of the City Counsel, We have witnessed the fruits of her commitment to our community through her courageousness to be one of the first to start the Recovery Coach movement that began in around 2013, She encouraged many of us to join her, She opened the very First Recovery Cafe in Tacoma that still exist today known as the Recovery Center . The Tacoma Tribune wrote in one of the articles that in its first year of operation they engaged with over 10,000 people in addiction. We witnessed some amazing leadership led by Mrs Artman. Today many of the members have become success stories and have become role models in their own communities. Mrs Artman has proven to us that she would be a Great Community Leader and an asset to the City Counsel.

Ronny Brown  
Community Engagement/Outreach/Peer Coach  
Boulder Care 253 348 7747  
Samella Brown, Life Center Ministries  
07/20/22

July 22, 2022

To the Tacoma City Council and Mayor,

I am writing in support of Maricres Castro in her path to be appointed by you to fill position 7 on your council.

It is important for City Councils to reflect the community they serve. When I am in a group, on a board, in an affinity group, I always ask myself, "who is not here?" I believe that Maricres, an indigenous woman, the daughter of immigrants and a scientist, will bring a perspective to the Tacoma Council that will make your decisions and policies even better! Her problem solving skills, values and outreach to most marginalized communities within the city will serve the City of Tacoma.

I was born in Tacoma and raised in Olympia. I am Samish and a proud member of our Coast Salish community. The health and wellbeing of our local communities around the Salish Sea is extremely important to me.

Respectfully,

Lisa Weber  
Chair NOW Seattle  
Chair LD48 Democrats

Dear Tacoma City Councilmembers,

I am writing you because I want to support Maricres Castro as a candidate for your open seat, position 7. I was a former candidate for Bellevue City council in 2019. I support her because I recognize her good values for the future of our society. She cares about and has empathy for our youth, community, and the homeless. I strongly believe that Maricres Castro will bring a new perspective and innovative solutions to City of Tacoma. She will be a voice for minority groups. Her good intentions and her willingness to serve means she deserves a chance. Please consider making her a member of the Tacoma city council.

Sincerely,  
Holly Zhang

July 22, 2022

Re: Maricres Valdez Castro  
Tacoma City Council Applicant – Position No. 7

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to endorse Ms. Maricres Valdez Castro for the Tacoma City Council No. 7.

Maricres is a dedicated community advocate for all BIPOC, LGBTQ, veterans, and the elderly, as well as the marginalized and immigrants. She has demonstrated her commitment and support in human rights, social justice, and community fundraising events.

She is a great listener, well informed of issues affecting the community in economic, affordable housing, equality, and health. Not only is she a great listener, but she is also a doer. Maricres is a risk taker, decisive, unwavering in her beliefs and a champion for the citizens of Tacoma.

If I could vote for Maricres, I would not hesitate to do so. I believe she would be an outstanding asset on the Tacoma City Council. I strongly encourage the committee to consider Maricres Valdez Castro for City Council, No. 7.

With sincerity,  
Thelma R. Sevilla  
Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP)  
Deputy Director, Region 8  
(206) 387-8284 cell



Celebrate | Learn | Protect

July 22, 2022

To whom it may concern,

Tacoma Ocean Fest wholeheartedly supports the application of Maricres Castro for Tacoma City Council position 7.

Maricres is a former speaker at Tacoma Ocean Fest, and a community leader who cares deeply about equity, sustainability and public health. She shows her love for Tacoma and service as both a scientist working in Covid-19 lab research and as Outreach Coordinator for Asia Pacific Cultural Center, communicating science and vaccine information to empower our communities with information to make informed decisions.

In addition, her service as a US Peace Corps volunteer using evidence-based interventions to address community issues of HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal health, and child nutrition - as well as her work as an Earth Day Network Youth Ambassador fighting for indigenous rights locally and abroad both strengthen her experience, leadership and commitment to community.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Ponnekanti,  
Director

Jul 22, 2022

Tacoma City Council  
Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear City of Tacoma,

It is with complete and wholehearted support that I write this letter of support for Maricres Valdez Castro to occupy the vacant Tacoma City Council position number 24.

I feel strongly that Maricres Valdez Castro exemplifies strong leadership and ethics. As such she will greatly improve the quality of the Tacoma City Council. Maricres Valdez Castro offers comprehensive and well thought out solutions to complex problems facing our community.

I believe that Maricres Valdez Castro has much to offer in providing interconnected, holistic solutions to complex issues the City of Tacoma faces:

1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Ms. Valdez Castro shows her commitment to providing equal access to education and resources especially concerning those traditionally underrepresented in our community. She understands that difficult situations often garner solutions that require compassion and understanding. Ms. Valdez Castro is a champion for Bayanihan unity which demonstrates her strong spirit of communal unity and cooperation. Furthermore, she demonstrates a strong commitment to social justice with the movement to Stop Asian Hate and the Black Lives Matter movement, especially in seeking justice for John Hyunh and Manuel Ellis. She does so with a boots on the ground mentality, hosting community events and open forum meetings in an effort to find solutions that include all those affected.

2. Environmental Justice - As a scientist Ms. Valdez Castro knows that in order to protect people and our environment we need to use the latest advancements and technologies available to us.

Especially when it comes to saving our planet. Ms. Valdez Castro is committed to cleaning up our environment and understanding that our most sensitive communities are already at risk for long-term damage if we as a community don't take action on preserving our home.

3. Women's Rights - Ms. Valdez Castro demonstrates a strong concern for issues surrounding women's reproductive rights and the right to live free from violence. Ms. Valdez Castro understands that not all women have proper access to holistic health care. Furthermore, she is a champion for access to solutions that would solve simple health ailments and curtail gender-based violence.

This is a small list of issues that I have personally seen Maricres Valdez Castro champion. For this I know that she will bring a strong sense of compassion and social justice to the Tacoma City Council position while building peace and harmony in our city.

Sincerely,

Danielle Smith

206.696.9687

July 22, 2022

To the Tacoma City Council

Re: Maricres Valdez Castro

Honorable Tacoma City Councilmembers,

I write to you today in support of Maricres Valdez Castro's appointment to the Tacoma City Council At-Large Position 7.

Ms. Valdez brings with her an array of outstanding work experiences on the international and local level. I have known Maricres through her community work and her presence in our communities as Miss Washington. She is an intelligent, hard working, and caring individual always with a vision for social justice.

As a council member, Ms. Castro can help expand the reach of the Tacoma City Council to those that have historically been disenfranchised. For the immigrant and refugee communities, can provide them access to government services including the services that provide voter registration guidelines. There are very few women in the field of molecular technology, let alone a woman of color. As a woman scientist, Ms. Valdez cares deeply for the empowerment of women in all fields.

You have seen her resume and her letter of intent.

Knowing her work personally, Maricres Valdez Casto will be a great asset to the City of Tacoma as a City Council member.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Velma Veloria". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Velma Veloria  
Former Washington State Representative

A couple of things that I want to say about my friend and colleague [Silong Chhun](#). Back in early 2017, he reached out to me not long after I had announced that I was a board member with the Cambodian Museum. He wanted to collaborate and do a national Day of Remembrance to honor those who were murdered during the Cambodian genocide. I knew right away from talking to him that he spoke genuine truths. He brought his vision, his ideas, and his humanity to the table, and would later introduce me to a number of fellow Khmer American colleagues who I would later become friends with.

We shared many conversations about what it means to bring the collective voices of the Khmer American communities together. I remembered the Day of Remembrance in Tacoma where the event that he facilitated brought a young woman to bravely tell the story of losing her mom, or how he moved elders and young people during his visit to Chicago as a guest speaker for the museum.

Though I don't feel I have actually moved any needles, I have been incredibly fortunate that his presence in my life has motivated me to dig harder to connect with other community leaders and members. I think about these connections quite often in my term as a board member, as a grad student, as a podcaster, and storyteller. Silong has been one of my biggest supporters of my podcast, both as a long-time sponsor and as a former guest. The show's success and my work as a podcaster are tied to the support he has given me and his spirit that inspires me.

Today, I am proud to watch him share in his testimony as he's about to enter the race for the City Council appt in Tacoma, WA. Just like in Silong fashion, he let the voices of others speak for him, and my goodness, those voices are powerful and brought me to tears. It reminded me of the stories he shared with me in trying to work on a community member's deportation case on his free time, or the many times he has comforted the loss of family members in his community.

Whatever comes out of this experience, I am proud to call him a friend and comrade. I am proud of what he has done for the community, and what more he will do for the city of Tacoma---they are in for a loving experience.

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am writing to recommend Silong Chhun for Position 7 on the Tacoma City Council.

In my years organizing and building w/ Silong, I have witnessed a native son of Tacoma tirelessly putting his community on his back in all of his endeavors, whether it's uplifting his neighbors through immigration advocacy via KhAAG, a group he co founded, or bringing elected officials together to address the impacts of displacement in the Eastside as a result of the pandemic, there isn't one issue that Silong hasn't touched, in fact, it is the issues that impacts Tacoma that is his north star.

He brilliantly uses his platform as a multi-disciplinary artist to connect the different parts of the community whether it's music, photography, and a whole host of other conduits.

Silong's ability to bring and organize people from all identities of Tacoma is the perfect ingredient for the council; bridging whatever disconnect the council has to the most marginalized.

Again, I write to recommend Silong Chhun for Position 7 on the Tacoma City Council.

- Bunthay Cheam

**July 20, 2022**

Dear City Council of Tacoma,

I am writing in full support of hiring Mr. Silong Chhun for Council Position No. 7 here in Tacoma. I cannot think of a better person for this position who is so dedicated to the city and people of Tacoma and proves this through his consistent actions. I did not know much about the city of Tacoma until Mr. Chhun informed me about all the wonderful things this city has to offer. I did not know about the diverse communities here until Mr. Chhun showed me all the different neighborhoods. When I first came to visit the region for a job that would place me in Bothell, it was Mr. Chhun who took his time out to give me a tour of Tacoma. And it was Mr. Chhun who connected me to a network of artists, artisans, realtors, activists, academics, small business owners, possible neighbors, city commissioners and many many others. Many people still roll their eyes or gasp when I tell them that I work in Bothell but have chosen to live in Tacoma, yet it is the best decision we have made for our family. In fact, my children never want us to move again as they claim Tacoma to be their “forever home.” We wanted to live in a truly diverse city with just enough grit and attitude that offers the beauty of the Pacific Northwest region without a liberal pretentiousness or absurd price tag. Unbeknownst to Mr. Chhun, he has become the city’s ambassador because he has an authentic love and appreciation for Tacoma and its people. I see this on almost all his social media posts with the hundreds of photos and videos he shares showing the various people, community activities and cultural milestones of Tacoma – with some videos taking a considerable amount of time to film and edit. I have also come to learn of Mr. Chhun’s activism and advocacy for the Cambodian American and refugee communities through his work challenging unjust deportation orders and the rise of anti-Asian violence. In fact, he was instrumental as an invited guest artist for the [“Healing Concert”](#) held in the Hilltop neighborhood that I produced with sponsorship from the UW to address the rise of anti-Asian violence in 2021. I understand that he volunteers his time quite often as a DJ, host, cultural leader and video artist to many cultural and community events all around the state of Washington. In fact, I just saw him at the recent Lincoln District street festival in a tent spinning tunes with his trademark big smile and positive energy. And if this city doesn’t already know it— Mr. Chhun is a nationally respected leader in the larger diasporic Cambodian American community who has helped to create events and collaborative opportunities to address and honor the Cambodian genocide of the 1970s. Of course, his efforts never end with the Cambodian community as he is always reaching out to include others because he values true diversity and sincerely knows that tangible change requires solidarity and collaboration.

Mr. Chhun is a man of his words and action – someone you can count on showing up for the people and the city he loves. For all these reasons, he is an ideal Tacoma city council member.

Thank you,

Anida Yoeu Ali  
Artist/Academic

Tacoma City Council:

I had the opportunity to serve on a board of directors with Allie. While Allie is a staunch advocate for the causes she believes in she has life experiences which make it difficult to work with other board members. I fear if she is appointed, she would have difficulty to work with others who may share differing views on issues.

Regards,

Luke

July 20, 2020

Mani Vairapandi  
Tacoma, WA, 98406

ATTN: City Council

RE: Vacant City Council Position No. 7 – Letter of Support for Sean Dannen

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mani Vairapandi and I am writing this letter today to acknowledge my full support of Sean Dannen for vacant Council Position No. 7. I have gotten to know Sean over the past couple years and he is an exemplary member of the City of Tacoma and has the best interest of the people at heart. I can say for certain that he will strive towards measures that boost the community from all aspects ranging from environmental issues, social programs, crime prevention and accessibility. He sees multi-faceted issues from different angles to best understand the way forward. His thoughtfulness resides on level ground with sound reasoning.

Sean has experience in economics and finance and will be able to understand how to fund programs and stretch the budget. He has experience collaborating with multiple groups and keeping their different thoughts in mind while achieving the same goal. He will do his best to allow for better opportunities to provide for working families. He has a strong work ethic and believes in bringing improved access to education to build up our community from the ground up.

Sean is a proud father and I hope that my kid will one day look up to me the way Sean's does him. I am honored to say that I can count on Sean as a member of our community and there is no one else more suitable to represent the people of Tacoma.

Sincerely,

Mani Vairapandi

July 21, 2021

Tacoma City Council

Dear Members of the Tacoma City Council,

It is my sincere pleasure to write this letter of support for Olgy Diaz. She has the experience, vision, and leadership needed to move this city forward.

As a lifelong resident of Pierce County and resident of Tacoma she understands the heart and soul of this city. She holds a deep love and appreciation for the people here. She knows how hard they work and that often things can be a struggle. But she also believes that by working together we can find solutions to the issues facing Tacoma today. Her experience in government and politics demonstrates an expertise that would be valuable to the council at this time. She understands the city's landscape and wide diversity of opinion and lived experiences that exist within the city limits. She embraces the differences in each community and will work hard to learn more about what makes each part of Tacoma unique.

Olgy is a dedicated public servant, a hard-working colleague, and a creative problem-solver. However, the thing I appreciate most about Olgy is she is a tenacious advocate for those she serves. Her constituents could not ask for anyone better than Olgy. She understands the commitment that it will take to serve in this role and she will do it with grace and vision.

~Amy Ruble

## **Council Position No. 7 Vacancy Applicant Feedback – 24**

**Having listened to most of the 3 min speeches among the 24 applicants for this council position No.7 on Tuesday (July 19) evening, I have to say that Mr. Jon Higley impressed me the most. I believe that he is the best candidate for this position simply because he has the passion to serve the people of Tacoma and the abilities to fulfill his mission of serving with other council members. He has shown his abilities to serve in the following aspects:**

- 1. As a result of his 40 years teaching career, he is an excellent communicator which is a key skill of a council member.**
- 2. By running for the 27<sup>th</sup> legislative district House seat in 2010, he increased his connections with the residents of Tacoma who are very diverse in the views.**
- 3. Through his 8 years of experience with being on the Pierce County Planning Commission Mr. Higley developed his skill set in local planning and local government protocols.**
- 4. Being a long-time resident of City of Tacoma, he appreciates and respects his city. He is always willing to and finding ways to help others.**
- 5. Being as a retiree, he is more able than most others to devote all his energy and time to his duties as a city council member, if appointed.**

I am writing to endorse Jon Higley for the city council position 7. Jon is actively involved in the community, has been part of the political community for a while, and has taken classes to become a campaign manager.

Jon is a great candidate for this position because he is not afraid to debate, attend town hall meetings or ask hard relevant questions. I believe he is the person the council needs to make the best decisions for our city.

Jon is honest and hard-working and will not waiver in the face of his values when making the best decisions for the community. He pays attention to the details and the impacts his decisions will make.

Jon's giving and generous spirit make him a pillar in this community. When someone needs help, he is there, no matter the need. He will find the solution. He will mow lawns, fix cars whatever needs to happen to help a member of his community. He is always working behind the scenes to uplift people. Just imagine adding that character value to our city council.

We need more people like Jon leading this city toward success and away from the crime and chaos plaguing us. Jon is the person for this position.

Sincerely,

Janet Large.

Esteemed City Council member

I'm emailing today because I support Andre Jimenez for appointment to the Tacoma City Council. I have known Andre since March of 2020, serving with him at Renaissance Apostolic Church and we are members of the same home fellowship group. As an educator in the Clover Park School District and a resident of Tacoma, I have had many discussions with Andre about the state of our education system, DEI policies in the public schools and the current attack on public education through the misrepresentation of Critical Race Theory and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Andre is thoughtful and well-reasoned in his contribution to the discussion, and I appreciate his dedication to ensuring that all residents of Tacoma are heard on the issues that affect our city. As a person of color and the son of a formerly incarcerated person, he has personal insight into the inequities built into our system of education, housing, and policing. You will not find a better candidate for the vacant City Council position.

Andre has served our community in many areas across the city including as:

- Human Rights Commission, Chair
- Pierce County Equity Review Committee, Dist. 4 Representative
- ASUWT President
- DEI Specialist, Washington State Historical Society
- Development & Communications Manager, Sound Outreach

He already regularly gives of his time and labor across our community through roles like:

- Coach, Institute for Black Justice
- Member, Justice-Involved Action Committee
- Legal Assistant, King County Housing Justice Project
- Campaign Aid to Kiara Daniels, Julie Anderson, and Melanie Morgan

Through his community organizing work, Andre has developed a fresh, bold approach to local government, driven by his responsiveness to our community's concerns. As our next City Councilmember Andre will focus on:

- Meeting our Housing Needs
- Developing our Youth Workforce
- Redefining our Public Safety Infrastructure

To do this he needs your voice and your support as he attempts to build a safer, more equitable Tacoma for all.

***Please vote to appointment Andre Jimenez to the Council.***

Thank you!

Cozette Shackelford

July 21, 2022

Dear City Council:

I am thrilled to write in support of Andre Jimenez appointment to Tacoma City Council. While there are many viable candidates for this extremely important position Andre will bring a unique perspective which is needed on the council. Andre is a caring, sensitive, and humble leader in our community who wants best for his children and family and has a deeply personal backstory which calls him to serve.

Andre and I first met during my studies at Tacoma Community College which we both earned our Associates Degree before both transferring to UW Tacoma to pursue our bachelor's degree in Law and Policy and participated in the rigorous Global Honors Program together. He also pursued a minor in Economics and Public Policy so he will be in tune with the budget needs also. His academic research is exceedingly thorough and will be a massive asset to the Council as I participated in the research study with him and the League of Women Voters concerning the health department. His research area around public safety would likely have the most influence and benefit to the Council for which he conducted during his time at UW Tacoma. He always has insightful comments, questions, and constructive feedback. I am confident he will bring this same inquisitive nature to the council with thoughtful ideas and will not be afraid to have complex discussions and ask the hard questions on several issues faced by the City at this time to have a thoughtful response to the matters that are most important to the City.

His educational background and work experience in the community including his volunteer role as Chair of the Human Rights Commission give him the lens to view issues around public safety along with diversity, equity, and inclusion. His work at Sound Outreach, a local non-profit allowed him to view the true broken links within our community who those clients were not properly supported by public assistance programs and easily fall through the cracks.

As a young father and husband, Andre is prepared and ready to tackle Tacoma's most pressing and challenging problems with grace, leadership, and tenacity with his policy experience.

Sincerely,

Luke Byram



Art Wang, Chair  
Lori Harnick, Vice Chair  
Priscilla Lisicich, Secretary  
Brian Green, Treasurer  
Jacques Colon  
Beverly Cox  
Kim Fisher  
Tory Green  
Ivan Harrell  
Ryan Mello  
Ali Modarres  
Ahlmahz Negash  
Lyle Quasim  
Wayne Williams  
Richard Woo  
Michael Yoder

Kathi Littmann  
President and CEO

July 21, 2022

Tacoma City Council  
Council Position 7 Vacancy

Dear Members of Tacoma City Council,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a letter of support for Andre Jimenez as nominee for Council Position 7.

As a UWT Chancellor's Advisory Board member, I have observed Andre in a leadership role. His passion for our community, commitment to doing the hard prep work to be prepared for key issues, and his engagement with a broad coalition of community members is clear and inspiring. Andre brings a depth of local experience that informs his focus on equity, inclusion, and belonging. And importantly, Andre has an amazing energy that enables him to successfully manage a (rather intimidating) workload!

Andre represents the best of our young leaders. We are lucky to have his commitment to Tacoma's future.

Sincerely,

*Kathi Littmann*

Kathi Littmann



Hello Councilman Walker,

It has been a very long time since we have last met in person, I was an intern for Downtown on the Go, many years ago when you were the director there. Just from my conversations with you I could tell that you were incredibly ambitious, and I was happy to support your campaign monetarily when you ran for City Council. The internship made me love my city deeply, not just because of the tasks I was given but people like you who were motivated to make the city better.

During my time at UW, there was an interesting person who came from TCC, someone who had a interest in journalism in politics. That same person basically did every extracurricular possible at the University of Tacoma. They were also incredibly principled and strong in their belief becoming the ASUW President to deal with issues like safety on campus, police funding, and issues of equity and inclusion. But what interested me most in Andre Jimenez. Was their incredibly pragmatic approach to advocacy. Andre was quick to focus on solutions and strategy rather than focus on progressive dogma or grievances. Even if one were to disagree with Andre, he was always willing to compromise and make you see a situation at a different angle.

Andre, I suspect like you have ambitions that exceed the city council yet will be a councilman who puts their life and soul into Tacoma. I politely ask you to consider Mr. Jimenez for the vacancy on Tacoma City Council, he will surprise you in ways you never imagined.

Thank you for posting about Tacoma Council News on your Instagram,

- Kenny Thai

July 21, 2022

If you review Andre's resume you will see that he will be attending graduate school in New Jersey starting this Fall 2022. He will be moving to New Jersey in the upcoming weeks to go to Princeton and begin his graduate program per his resume.

Andre will NOT be a resident of Tacoma and will NOT be a contributing member of our community. Giving this spot to him is a disservice to our community as it takes away a spot from someone who will be an active member.

You can review an updated confirmation of this from June 2022 on the UW Tacoma Website here: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/news/andre-jimenez-reset-and-redefine>

In this interview done just one month ago you will find he states

“Andre Jimenez, '22, doesn't have much time. “We're leaving in July,” he said. The “we” in this statement is Jimenez, his wife and their three children. Jimenez graduates from UW Tacoma with a degree in law and policy on Monday, June 13. He's expected to be in Princeton, New Jersey by the end of July. “There's a mandatory summer program that I have to attend and it starts on August first,” said Jimenez.”



**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC LANDS**

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**360-902-1000**  
[WWW.DNR.WA.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.WA.GOV)

July 18, 2022

Tacoma City Council  
Tacoma Municipal Building  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Carlos Lugo's appointment to the Tacoma City Council's vacant position. As Deputy Director of External Affairs & Community Engagement at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Carlos is a valuable member of my Executive Management team. He is pragmatic in his leadership, a problem solver, and someone who knows how to advance important priorities by bringing people together around shared values.

Carlos has an extensive background in community and stakeholder engagement, and his commitment to diversity and inclusion is readily apparent in his work. He has a track record of bringing together leaders and coalitions from all walks of life to achieve better outcomes for the public. He also thinks big about the systems-level changes needed to improve people's lives. Because of his abilities and experience, I have entrusted him with developing DNR's first-ever community engagement plan, which will implement environmental justice principles and increase participation by underserved communities in our agency's decision-making processes.

As with many parts of our state, Tacoma and the South Puget Sound region are facing critical challenges. From equitably addressing a growing public safety crisis to mitigating the economic and health impacts of climate change, the coming years will require collaborative, innovative leadership. Carlos has proven that he has the skills, outlook, and grit necessary to provide that leadership, and I know that he would be an excellent addition to the City Council.

Sincerely,

Hilary S. Franz

Commissioner of Public Lands

To the Members of Tacoma's City Council:

I have known Yvonne McCarty for 30 years. As a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Tacoma resident, she understands Tacoma's history, values and diversity. Her commitment and passion to making Tacoma the best city to live in runs deep. For the past 20 years, Yvonne's volunteer work in the schools, scouts, NET Neighborhood Council, Community Council of Tacoma, and Tideflats Advisory Group, has earned her the trust and support of her community.

Having worked in consulting, Yvonne brings a valuable set of expertise to the council including budgeting, strategic planning, project leadership and effective communication skills. Yvonne is not only a team player, but also a proven leader, building and uniting strong teams that deliver desired outcomes.

With Yvonne on the council, you are guaranteed dedication. She will commit to working as a City Council member full time, without any other work obligations. Having focused on the City council process, activities and initiatives for the past five years, she is up to speed and ready to contribute on her first day.

Impassioned and empowered, with Yvonne on the City Council, Tacoma's future will be in good hands.

Best regards,

Meredith Whalen

Carrie Meeks  
11621 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499  
(801) 641-4757

July 21, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I have known Yvonne McCarty for about six months, and in the time I have worked with her at Stadium High School, I have really come to admire her. She is extremely hardworking. There were times that she would come to work at 6:30 in the morning just so that she could get some extra tasks done before she started her usual work. She is very detail oriented. She notices things that others don't, and makes sure to point them out in a tactful and helpful way. She looks at trends in data, and then looks for solutions to any problems that she sees. Another strong trait that I have observed in her is empathy. She is kind to students and adults, and careful to take into account an individual's personal story. She is professional and discreet.

I have also gotten an opportunity to observe how deeply she cares for Washington, and in particular Tacoma. She is a long-time resident, and is very involved in what is happening here. When problems arise, I see in her a personal desire to help.

For all of these reasons, Yvonne McCarty would be an outstanding candidate!

Sincerely,

Carrie Meeks, coworker

July 22, 2022

Dear Tacoma City Council

Yvonne McCarty is an outstanding choice to fill the vacant Tacoma City Council position. I have known Yvonne for nearly 20 years. She is without question the most passionate citizen of Tacoma that I have ever known. Yvonne is rightly proud of her multi-generation Tacoma heritage. She is extraordinarily bright and thoughtful, and has continuously given back to the community through her involvement with Tacoma schools and various community and neighborhood groups. Most importantly, Yvonne has a genuine vision for a thriving and prosperous Tacoma that focuses on livability for her fellow citizens.

I urge you to select Yvonne McCarty for the vacant Tacoma City Council position.

Sincerely,

Tom Montemayor  
Tacoma resident



July 21, 2022

Letter of Recommendation for Yvonne McCarty, Position 7 At Large City Council Position

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm and support that I endorse my friend and fellow Northeast Neighborhood Chair, Yvonne McCarty for Position 7 for the At Large City Council Position. It's been a privilege to become acquainted with Yvonne over many years and work with her on a variety of Browns' Point and Dash Point Improvement initiatives and community issues that I have been involved as President of the Dash Point Improvement organization.

As a new President two years ago, I sought Yvonne's guidance and knowledge about community issues, challenges that we face here in the unincorporated areas of our community and opportunities to improve and grow our influence helping our neighbors with land use issues, police and fire protection concerns, homelessness, community involvement, our pier and parks and just cleaning up our neighborhood.

I found out quickly that having a community knowledge expert like Yvonne was incredibly beneficial for a new leader like myself. I met Yvonne and her husband working on a local clean up event in our community and she invited me to join the Northeast Neighborhood Council meetings. There I learned about the vast network of public activities that she was managing and focusing for our community and I pitched in and started to share the lessons learned and opportunities here in Dash Point and Browns Point with our members.

We worked together on the homelessness crisis here in our local community that was apparent during the Covid crisis during the last two years and we held community meetings and Zoom sessions with our neighbors and local leaders to discuss our concerns and allow the community to voice theirs as well. All throughout these last two years, I found Yvonne to be inciteful, patient, knowledgeable about the issues, the facts and data, the people and leaders in our community. More specifically, Yvonne always spoke respectfully to everyone, leading with values and high standards that I came to respect in my twenty-five years at the Boeing Company.

We are very fortunate to have Yvonne McCarty as a leader here in our Northeast Community. I'm very pleased to support her because I know that should she be selected for Position 7, she will lead with the kinds of business and community values, respect for one another, and lead with business and input based upon the facts and findings that all of our citizens have come to appreciate about her leadership here in the Northwest community of Tacoma.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim West  
Professor, University of Washington Tacoma  
Dash Point Community Former President

Box 358426 1900 Commerce Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

253.692.5860 uwtech@uw.edu www.tacoma.uw.edu/set

July 20, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my full support for Yvonne McCarty's application for the open, Tacoma City Council position.

I have known Yvonne for almost 18 years. We have been neighbors, PTA members and community volunteers. Yvonne is smart, energetic, and most of all, passionate about her community. From serving on the NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council, to being actively involved in a variety of volunteer positions, Yvonne has always put everything she has into making her community a better place to work, learn and live.

No matter what issue comes before her, Yvonne tries to look at it from all angles, examining the data and looking for how to achieve the best outcome. She is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in, but is also willing to listen to other perspectives and to consider those perspectives before making a final decision.

For years, Yvonne has been encouraged to seek elective office but has not done so as she was focused on her children and their activities. Now, having successfully raised two incredible children and sent them off to college, Yvonne is able to devote her full attention to working to make the city she was born and raised in, the best it can be. I believe Tacoma will only benefit from her service and I hope you will strongly consider appointing her to the position.

With best wishes,

Sara Smith

July 20, 2022

## Letter about Yvonne McCarty

Courageous – a simple word with a complex meaning. It is merely the quality of being able to venture and persevere at the face adversity or difficulty. It is easy enough to say, but to truly act as a courageous person is something that is very difficult to master. Yet, one person comes to mind when I think about this adjective, and that person is Yvonne McCarty. From an early age, Yvonne has faced many challenges, like both of her parents leaving her and being moved to her distant grandparents' home. Then, throughout her life, she had to work extremely hard to keep up with the other children so that she would have a chance at attending a university. Eventually that day came, but she had no money to attend, so her grandparents sold their home and eventually became homeless so that Yvonne could be a first-generation college student. It is just to say that her life growing up was difficult; however, despite these challenges, Yvonne was determined to create a better life for her children and repay her grandparents. This goes to show the kindness and dedication Yvonne has for those she loves; but it does not stop there. Yvonne continues to show that love for her friends, neighbors, and community through the effort and countless hours she puts into helping the city of Tacoma. She is someone who is willing to stand alone, against all adversity so that we may have a healthier and happier community. No one I know is that courageous... no one except, Yvonne. Even when fighting her own health battles – like cancer – Yvonne is advocating for others. She will never put her own needs before yours. That quality is something that not many people possess. Would anyone be that generous and empathetic? Anyway, all this to say that Yvonne would be the best choice for this city council position. She has spent her whole life in Tacoma, working with a diverse community of people. She will tackle the tough

situations and create positive and lasting solutions.  
She will be the one that changes Tacoma for the better.  
I can't wait to live in a city that I know is in good  
hands. Yvonne is the one. #JointhePartyVoteforMcCarty  
!!

Erik Bjornson  
Attorney at Law  
Tacoma, WA 98402

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July 21, 2022

Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council members,

I have reviewed all of the candidate's statements and testimony for appointment the Tacoma Position 7.

**I believe it is clear that principal Pat McGregor is by far the most qualified candidate based on his advanced education, life experience, professional experience and the skills he has acquired through his diverse experience.**

Many hundreds of people, including myself, know that Pay McGregor is a personal and seasoned professional of high integrity, can work and connect with people at all levels in life and is a problem solver on the personal and management level.

McGregor grew up homeless, much of the time on the streets on New York city with his mother and sister where he often resorted to staying in phone booths at night to stay warm and survive. He was often in public housing and on public assistance.

He has a bachelors degree and my Masters Degree Educational Leadership. He worked as a teacher for 20 years and a school principal for 7 years. He is a seasoned professional on a wide range of issues. He integrates both excellences and equity in his approach to problem solving.

He worked to advance academic, professional excellence, and equity with his students and teachers he managed. He excelled at taking Equity Systems and Training as a teacher and taught equity principles to his teachers.

He broadened his experience by working as a principal at Chief Leschi school which predominately has a Native American student body.

He worked to adopt and integrate complex new scholastic learning programs during his career. He adopted and implemented far reaching LGBTQ policies for schools and worked with LGBTQ students and faculty to make sure they were party of the successful community. Many of these programs were state and district level programs.

While serving as a principal, he successfully worked with many homeless students and families and supported their success at the school. He also worked with homeless individuals around the school campus.

He developed district wide discipline systems for the school as a principal. He successfully addressed complex security issues in and around the school and he accomplished it pragmatically, compassionately and with an equity lens.

He has significant experience in urban planning and served as the chair of the Puyallup Planning Commission. He studied and understand Tacoma's Home in Tacoma initiative and knows it can be a great tool to make housing more integrative and affordable in Tacoma.

He volunteered many years ago as a South Side neighbor and was one of the leaders in establishing an Alcohol Impact Area in South Tacoma which remains in effect today. He is very familiar with the challenges many of the poorer areas of Tacoma experience today.

He addressed all of the main challenges Tacoma faces today in a management capacity and on a personal level. He is a seasoned professional on nearly all-important issues facing Tacoma. The City of Tacoma would be extremely fortunate to have him as a councilmember as he is ready to work and lead on day one of his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Bjornson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Erik Bjornson

Ebjornson@msn.com

July 21, 2022

The City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Re: Council Position No. 7 Vacancy Applicant Feedback

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bojie Mageo, and I am writing in support of Manny Santiago's candidacy for Council Position 7. I've had the distinct pleasure of thriving under Manny Santiago's leadership during his tenure as Executive Director at the Rainbow Center and Executive Director WA State LGBTQ Commission. His resume speaks volumes about his effectiveness as an agent of change but it's in his character and commitment to serving that his candidacy is merited.

I met Manny through Pierce County's leadership development network. I had the specific request to meet an immigrant, queer, non-white male leader with a faith bent. Basically, someone like me. Growing up in Tacoma since 1996, I did not see leaders who embodied these intersections. Manny profoundly inspired me to embrace the intersections that make me different and refresh my activism in my hometown. Representation matters! I am not alone in this opinion. There are many others who share the same sentiments of inspiration and influence that Manny has brought to our community.

Something I greatly respect about Manny is his deep understanding of how we can thrive within systems that aren't designed for us. His bravery in facing the ugly truths of injustice and inequity, locally and globally, allows him to be a fierce advocate for many marginalized and overlooked community members. His worldview, capacity to learn, and relationship-building skills mean that no challenge is too big for Manny to approach. I see it day in and day out over the years I've called him a mentor and a leader.

Our community has thrived and will continue to thrive greatly from Manny Santiago's leadership. With his appointment as Council Position No. 7, he will bring a unique and necessary blend of what's necessary for us to thrive in 2022 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Bojie Mageo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bojie Mageo', with a large, stylized initial 'B' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

07/21/2022

To: Tacoma City Council

From Jamia McRae, MSW

My name is Jamia McRae, and I would like to offer this letter of support of Mr. Corwin Scott in his application to be appointed to the Tacoma City Council. I currently work with Mr. Corwin Scott with the community social change group, The Black Democrats of Pierce County, in which I currently serve as the Vice Chair. I have seen first-hand, the dedication that Mr. Scott has for the local community of Tacoma. He has served tirelessly through his nonprofit to help formally incarcerated individuals have a fresh start, with record expungement and helping to pay off legal fines. He has advocated for social change through targeted policy change campaigns dealing in the areas of chemical dependency, homelessness, and fiscal tax responsibility. He has great ideas that will help to improve the lives of all Tacoma Citizens. He truly cares for all and wants to see all succeed no matter their background, race, or creed. He has shown to be very personable and respectful to all, which is vital as he will engage with his local community to advocate for their needs.

In addition, I currently work as family social worker for the entire Pierce County area for the past 15 years. I have seen the impacts that mental health, chemical dependency, and lack of resources have on the Tacoma community. We need strong political leaders who are willing to go above and beyond to in order to bring equity for all. Mr. Corwin Scott will be the best person to serve on the Tacoma City Council as he possesses all the qualities that a councilmen should have. He is dependable, passionate, smart, possesses strong critical thinking skills, and a hard worker. He will truly be an asset to the council.

Thank you,



Jamia McRae, MSW

253-985-7293

j.mcrae1013@gmail.com

July 21, 2022

To Whom It My Concern

I would like to share my support for Corwin Ray Scotts application to run for the vacancy of Council Position No. 7.

I have known Mr. Scott for approximately 7 years and in my professional interactions with him I have always found him to be a man of his word.

I consider him extremely trustworthy in his professional endeavors.

He as always focused on his goals of bettering the community and supporting individuals that have been marginalized.

The City of Tacoma would be a much more equitable place if Mr. Scott is chosen for this position.

Susan E Olson CPC, CRC, BS  
A Part of The Solution  
253.292.7641  
RiseUpAndSucceed@gmail.com  
SusanEOlson@hotmail.com

Date 7-20-2022

Dear hiring committee,

My name is Theresa Henderson-Brown. I am writing to endorse Corwin Scott for Tacoma City Council position #7. Corwin is already actively involved in the revitalization of Tacoma. He works tirelessly through several agencies, projects and age groups to improve the quality of life for residents.

I would first like to take a minute to explain to this group who I am and why I think I'm uniquely qualified to make this recommendation. I am a lifetime resident of Tacoma and have been aligned with Tacoma City Council and its values in every decade of my life. My mother is the late, great Alberta Canada. She is known as one of Tacoma's most influential local activists. She championed fights against issues involving housing, healthcare, education and equity for people of color among other things. She spoke in front of the council on many occasions, embracing the need of keeping families in stable homes and financially empowered. She assisted underserved elderly, helping prepare their tax returns and provided employment to community members who didn't have the most desirable backgrounds or skillsets. This is the example I had within our home to show me what a leader should look like.

I want to discuss why I think Corwin is a strong candidate. I became acquainted with Corwin in 2010, he was president of the Pre-law club at Evergreen State College/Tacoma. He encouraged me to join the students in that extracurricular activity. Upon joining, we were taught by lawyers conducting a Continuing Legal Education seminar how to vacate, seal and expunge nonviolent criminal data from the records of citizens of Washington. We started having clinics at the school after we poled the neighborhood and realized how employment and housing opportunities had been affected because of lack of representation and or knowledge of how people could improve their situations pro se'. After graduating, the demand for the service we provided at the clinics was so great we incorporated as a business in September 2011. We deemed ourselves Evergreen Empowerment Group.

While raising money to keep our endeavor afloat, Corwin and I enrolled in graduate school at Argosy University. I studied Public Health while he pursued a Master of Business degree. Maintaining a salaried staff has always been challenging for small start-ups. Corwin reached out to local learning institutions including Bates and Tacoma Community College seeking students who needed practical experience from a real business. He not only recruited interns but trained them as well. I have watched him hold other positions as well, where he has also empowered disabled people is his experience as a job coach. Corwin is exceptionally good at figuring out what life skills people already possess and equate those skills into the job world. He has an excellent eye for marrying opportunities primarily between employers and people with barriers that have kept them from being employed. He has a way of speaking to people so they feel respected and valued.

Corwin is an astute listener. He is eager to hear and try nontraditional solutions as well as values traditional and proven technique including knowledge from experienced leaders who came before him. I believe any skill he may not possess he can learn. Corwin Scott is a local asset and I would be thrilled to watch him be able to continue to guide the growth of Tacoma.

There are plenty more attributes Corwin has and experiences I have witnessed. I'm sure you can get the drift from his resume but if you would like to hear more firsthand knowledge of his capabilities please contact me directly.

Thank you for your time,

Theresa Henderson-Brown

Evergreen Empowerment Group, Co-Founder

[Tesabrowntesa@gmail.com](mailto:Tesabrowntesa@gmail.com)

253-310-8043

Dear Tacoma Council Members,

I'm delighted for this opportunity to write in support of Kimber Starr's appointment to the Tacoma City Council. I know Kimber through her work as a community organizer for housing justice and opportunity. She's been a collaborative, thoughtful, and dedicated activist. More than just a good listener, I've seen Kimber's curiosity and empathy lead her to asking good questions that uncover deep insights about complicated issues. Kimber's contributions with the Pierce County Planning Commission has been positive, solution oriented and practical. I hope she'll have the chance to put her talent and heart to work for the people of Tacoma as a Council Member.

Sincerely,

David Galazin

Dear Tacoma City Council Members,

I have had the pleasure of working with candidate, Kimber Starr who is running for the open seat on the council and have been so impressed with her thorough knowledge base on housing and homelessness. We happen to be real estate brokers but met in another civic group and she would be someone that I would reach out to if I had a question on housing. I can tell it is her passion and mission to correct the inequities that exist and make positive changes. I have found her to be an excellent communicator, collaborator, resource and has a can do attitude. She is someone you want on your team. She follows through and gets things done. She loves this community and wants to make it even better.

She has the knowledge and ability to build a coalition of community stakeholder, non- profit organizations and tribes to the table. Kimber is a connector. She would bring indigenous representation and perspective to the Tacoma City Council.

Please Appoint Kimber Starr to the Tacoma City Council.

Sincerely,

M. Pat Curran

[marypatcurran@comcast.net](mailto:marypatcurran@comcast.net)

206-228-6292

Dear Tacoma City Council Members,

I support Kimber Starr for the open seat of the Tacoma City Council because she has extensive expertise related to affordable housing and homelessness. Secondly, she is excellent at collaboration with others and helping to find solutions that everyone can support.

Further, she has a talent for building a coalition of community stakeholders collaborating with Federal, State and Local government entities, nonprofit organizations, workgroups, and Tribes.

She would bring indigenous representation and perspectives to the TCC – most likely the only person ever.

Please appoint Kimber Starr to the TCC!

Sincerely,  
John C. Alessio  
jcalessio9@gmail.com

Please send your support for **Heidi Stephens** to be moved forward in the process for Tacoma City Council At-Large, Position 7, to balance economic growth with environmental preservation and truly affordable housing.

**The City Council needs to hear from you by noon this Friday, July 22nd!**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6e030d55bfb444e0b593961732e5bddd>

We need a person in the City Council At-Large Position 7 seat which represents all of Tacoma for the current and future issues we face. Someone with a tenacious drive to understand all the viewpoints, listen AND hear their constituents, and then make the hard decisions about the right course of action.

**Heidi Stephens** from South Tacoma is that person and I am asking for you to write comments in support of her volunteering to step up for the Earth, the Community, and all the living things in this great City as a candidate for this vital Council seat.

Many candidates say they have "vision", "passion", and "experience" - ***For Heidi Stephens these are not just 'buzzwords' or catch phrases.***

Not only does she have these critical traits and characteristics, she is putting them into action. ***She is leading the effort now*** to not only update and protect our most precious resource - the aquifer beneath our feet - but also to look forward and develop a unique Economic Green Zone in 1/5 of the Cities most impacted and vulnerable land area. This project, working now through the Planning Commission and City Council, not only protects the aquifer. This puts words into deeds with proposals and plans which will transform the City of Tacoma and our live, play, work, retire environment and destiny for years to come.

So many great candidates - but ***she is the best qualified*** and ***she is the person we need*** on the council.

**The Council is taking public feedback on the candidates until 12pm this Friday, 7/22.**

**Please provide comments of support.** Please use the simple form, found at this link, to tell the city council you support Heidi Stephens for At-Large, Position 7:

LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/TacomaCouncilSeat7>

- or (if the above link doesn't work for you) email: [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org)

This is Lionel Donovan, and I'm writing in to offer my support for Tisha Marie Wosencroft.

Tisha has always been willing to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and works tirelessly to improve Tacoma. In the short time I've been here, I've seen how innovative and trailblazing she has been when it comes to advocacy. She is always looking for ways to help, from having LegallyBlack give out bookbags during back-to-school events, to working with the city to negotiate police contracts to ensure they are equitable and fair, to literally getting out of her car and giving out food to those in need, just because they're hungry.

Tisha helps people simply because she feels it's the right thing to do. That's the only reason she needs. I'm honored to be able to count on her as a resource and contributor for my work, and I'm more than confident that the people of Tacoma will benefit from having her on their Council.

To whom it may concern,

Tisha Marie is an inspiration to our community. She is one of the first names that come to mind when I envision the kind of community we should be aiming for here in Tacoma. Her work with LegallyBLACK has emphasized the importance of an intersectional perspective within our city, and I know few people with her level of dedication to Tacoma and the people in its boundaries. We need more folks like her in these positions of power to lead us into a brighter future for all of Tacoma. When an old black woman had her house vandalized with hate, Tisha was there leading the charge in the community to show up for one of our own. Her forethought and quick thinking brought community members together with loving haste for just ONE person in Tacoma, and I think she could be a force to be reckoned with if given the tools and resources the city can provide. In my opinion, she represents the kind of change we need.

Thank you,

Nakanee Fernandez

To whom it may concern,

Tisha Marie is an inspiration to our community. She is one of the first names that come to mind when I envision the kind of community we should be aiming for here in Tacoma. Her work with LegallyBLACK has emphasized the importance of an intersectional perspective within our city, and I know few people with her level of dedication to Tacoma and the people in its boundaries. We need more folks like her in these positions of power to lead us into a brighter future for all of Tacoma. When an old black woman had her house vandalized with hate, Tisha was there leading the charge in the community to show up for one of our own. Her forethought and quick thinking brought community members together with loving haste for just ONE person in Tacoma, and I think she could be a force to be reckoned with if given the tools and resources the city can provide. In my opinion, she represents the kind of change we need.

Thank you,

Nakanee Fernandez