I wanted to speak tonight but every time I raised my hand it didn't work. My comments are below.

I’m Michelle Mood, with a home in South Tacoma. Thank you for the shout out about shelter dogs! Thank you for asking the Boy Scouts to never be silent about what is important to them.

I’m SPEAKING TO THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE THIS SATURDAY, MY HUSBAND’S BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER 14, GREEN TACOMA DAY. What does this resolution do? How does it create a greener life for us in Tacoma? I appreciate the acknowledgement of the desperate situation here in South Tacoma by the presenters. However, did you know that already half the street trees planted by the city on my street, Gunnison, are dead? Each year more die! The system of planting is not working, is not greening us, I’m sorry to have to say. We are not one community yet. We are hot and paved over down here.

Clearly something more needs to be done. You know, in the One Tacoma Comprehensive plan, one entire chapter is all about the environment and what the city must have as goals and plans for the environment. The third goal in that chapter is to ensure that all Tacomans can experience nature in our daily lives. I’m curious to hear about the way this Green Tacoma Resolution will guide the city to support and implement a Green Tacoma.

Another goal, Number 4, is for the City to Achieve the greatest possible gain in environmental health City-wide over the next 25 years through proactive planning, investment and stewardship.

Is Green Tacoma Day Resolution creating this this proactive planning? Trees are easy, real change is not. Grow a greener Tacoma using new, powerful ordinances to implement the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan and create a green future for all of us, even down here in South Tacoma.

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)
(c) 740-233-6333
Long covid despite vaxxed, boosted, and Paxlovid
#covidsucks
Dear Mayor Woodards and Council Members,

I read through the most recent City Managers report and had a concern question regarding the latest information on the 'City-Funded Temporary and Emergency Shelter Performance' report. The latest census for the City-Funded Temporary and Emergency Shelters was at 491 people with 29 beds available. The Holy Rosary Safe Parking Site seems to be close to capacity. Are there any plans to increase the numbers of these 'Safe Parking Sites'. This type of sites seem to be an answer for those people living in their cars and RVs...especially as the weather gets colder and wetter. By increasing the numbers of these sites, this would be a relief for residents in neighborhoods that have seen increasing numbers of cars and RVs parked on streets close to housing. Also, the people living in vehicles and RVs would have a consistently safe place to be...with access to bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities. They would also have opportunity to meet with Case Workers to more easily access needed health, substance abuse and financial services.

Please consider expanding these types of sites throughout the City of Tacoma.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathie (Raine) Urwin
South Tacoma resident
Dear Planning Commission,

You have important instructions to make to the Planning Department as regards HIT2.

I am here to let you now that the Midscale housing along transit corridors IS NOT needed. What we need to do is allow those lands to be used for businesses. This City should be working to bring businesses into Tacoma and for that, the land along busy traffic streets will be needed.

Also important is for you to know that when I spoke to Councilwoman Ushka regarding the fact that even their planning department indicated that Midscale along transit corridors was not needed. She told me that if we did not do it, the Governor would do it. Well, the governor did not require midscale housing along transit corridors in ANY PART OF THE STATE.

I am attaching a slide that I pulled from a presentation made to the city council after HIT1. That is one where the planning department staffer told the city council that Midscale along transit corridors was NOT NEEDED.

Imagine apartments 3-4 stories high, lot line to lot line with NO PARKING. This is a request that was made by transit. Transit is JUST ANOTHER BUSINESS. It will destroy Tacoma. PEOPLE will not be taken out of their cars. THAT IS A FACT.

I rode transit for 16 years to and from Seattle until my retirement in 2016. I knew everyone of the conductors on the Sounder from Tacoma to Seattle to Tacoma. I also knew almost all my bus drivers. I am saying this because I am not against transit. But YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT IT IS JUST ANOTHER BUSINESS.

As someone working with the Business Owners on Pacific Avenue, let me tell you that this will be a death knell for many of our businesses. When they widen Pacific Avenue, many of the businesses that are landlocked with go out of business. Landlords will also suffer. There is so much that you don’t know BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW.

The widening of Pacific has been postponed – but just until they get more money. Transit will win, but the tax money that we get from those businesses will BE GONE. REMEMBER ONE THING – for every action there is a reaction – the ECONOMY and JOBS will be gone.
Since the State did not see fit to require cities to build Midscale along transit corridors. YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS NOT DONE.

We need homes for youth to build wealth. Rental units are okay for short periods of time. Sadly, rental costs are very high in many of the buildings. One young man I met recently is paying $2,100 per month for a 1 bedroom.

Developers are purchasing land and building apartment buildings only to sell them immediately to investors.

Don’t allow the row houses that you find in other cities unless you make sure that they have concrete walls between units to avoid fires from burning adjacent units. The concrete walls should be from the base of the unit and past the top peak of the townhome.

We cannot put people in danger. That is what you will be doing by allowing this massive rezone without improving construction development. PEOPLE WILL BE SITTING DUCKS IN THEIR SLEEP when a unit catches on fire and they are unaware of it until it is too late. WALK IN THEIR SHOES AND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS FOR TACOMA. This is all in your hands.

It is also important for you to know that you don’t have to build up to the sidewalk. I have been to Seattle so many times and have seen how people walking their dogs can’t find a place for their dogs to sniff and do there business.

Too much concrete creates heat. Think about rooftop gardens for large apartment complexes so that people can go up there and enjoy a tree and some views.

BUT DON’T BUILD WITH SO MUCH CONCRETE IN TACOMA. For building firewalls yes, but please minimize the exterior concrete. We need to let our earth soak up the water that rains.

Drive around Seattle and drive towards Seattle Pacific University and see the area is nothing but concrete with very little grass. WE DESERVE BETTER THAN THAT.

Regards,
Esther Day
Why more space for mid-scale housing?

- Do we need Mid-scale for our required housing growth capacity? No
- Home In Tacoma Goal: Housing supply, choice and affordability

Mid-scale is one of the most affordable housing types – particularly when combined with reduced transportation/household costs

This is what Boudet said when he presented this. It is on tape. Then why do Midscale?

Customers for transit and to hell with homeowners

11/4/2021
Council members, thank you for taking the time to read this. My name is Tzachi Litov and I am a resident of Puyallup. I am also a first generation Jewish Israeli American. My grandmother was born in Palestine when it was part of the Ottoman Empire, my father was born in British Mandate Palestine and I lived in Israel from 1981 to 1987.

As a member of the Jewish community of Pierce County, I am here to tell you, your Jewish constituents are NOT OK. We all have friends and family impacted by the brutality Hamas waged upon our people and are now subjected to a backlash of Jew bashing and Jew hatred, an outpouring of antisemitism as a result. Friday the 13th was called “The Day of Rage” where Hamas leaders called for Muslims around the world to seek out and kill Jews. So no – we are NOT OK.

Especially difficult has been the response of so many Americans praising Hamas, in the guise of being “Pro-Palestine”, for the rape, kidnapping, torture, and brutality Hamas committed October 7th. But at least those are folks willing to use their voices. What’s been even harder is the lack of a response condemning the acts of Hamas.

It’s important to know I support peace and prosperity for the Palestinian people but as long as Hamas rules in Gaza, the people of Gaza, the Palestinians, will continue to suffer as they are used as human shields and made to work digging tunnels and outposts, often in dense residential communities, in schools and in hospitals.

Legislators in DC hang Palestinian flags on their office doors and refuse to denounce the terrorism of Hamas, which is implicit support of their actions. Also – where is the outrage from our communities of faith? During the summer of George Floyd – 2020, folks were marching in the street against violence. Their silence now is deafening and sadly – the reason is a simple one. Jewish lives clearly don’t matter!

So if you’re wondering how the Jewish constituents of our community are doing – it’s simple. We are NOT OK.

I will leave you with a few quotes:

Albert Einstein - “The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.”

Golda Meir “We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us.”

And finally – the poem First They Came by Pastor Martin Niemoller:

- First they came for the Communists And I did not speak out Because I was not a Communist
- Then they came for the Socialists And I did not speak out Because I was not a Socialist
- Then they came for the Jews And I did not speak out Because I was not a Jew
- Then they came for me And there was no one left To speak out for me.

If there’s any way I could be of help in terms of having conversations and/or helping explain just how we got here, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Tzachi Litov
tzachilitov@gmail.com
LinkedIn Profile
206-498-6622