

From: twm1301@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 2:32 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy; Scott, Jamika; Sadalge, Sandesh
Subject: Res. 41523 8 yr. MFTE 3402 So. C St.

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I feel compelled to write to you after reading up on items on the agenda for the Tuesday, 10 Sep. 2024 Council meeting and noticing this 8 year planned exemption.

First, let me say thank you to those individuals who worked on the update of all the projects on the City's website (Ms.Bingham/Planning Dept.). Since those updates had been lacking I was pleasantly surprised that they had been done. So, my thanks to you.

For almost 2 years, as some of you might know, I have been following the MFTE's that have been granted since 2018, specifically doing some math on the amount of property taxes that were not collected especially on the 8 year exemptions.

For many years, you granted a great many 8 year exemptions, with no benefits to the citizens other than increasing density in certain areas. You changed the wording "affordable" to "regulated" (who is the regulating authority?), but that does not change the fact that many millions of property taxes went uncollected and the citizens at large have been faced with numerous levies to make up for the lost revenue and the rents being charged are a heavy burden for too many of us. Also, there are always available units in many of the newly constructed buildings.

Let it be understood that I am only addressing the 8 year exemptions because they have no requirements on any affordable/regulated units whatsoever. And I won't even begin to get into Impact fees. This seems to be a hot potato and in Tacoma nobody seems to want this discussed. Everyone is so busy with other items (i do understand, so don't get me wrong, but before you address Artificial Intelligence, could you kindly allow some time for this topic?) that this issue was addressed in 2018 and again in late 2023 another study was ordered, but now in mid 2024 it's not even in more detailed discussion or consideration.

Following those MFTE's on the agenda, I noticed that since January 2024 all granted extensions were for 12 years, which actually benefits some on my fellow Tacomans. Until now!

Have any of you checked details on this project? Honestly, I would hate to live next door to this planned 6 unit 2-story building on an area of 3,250 sf. with 2 parking spots. The estimates on the CCAM presented are also too conservative. Giving the fact that this project has 3 years to be completed and by that time, the actual construction costs and the property taxes have increased, thus changing the entire picture. I do understand that these are estimates, but I am sure in the building industry there is some kind of guide and the only figures that are accurate are the current assessed value and taxes for the land. Furthermore, basing a presentation like this on estimated building costs is inaccurate because property taxes are based on value. You could build that on the 800K projected, but that is not what this property will be worth after completion. You seem to compare apples to oranges and also, on the CCAM you will always highlight the revenue for the City, but in the end, it is all the taxpayers who will make up the shortfall. And yes, I do understand that you, yourself, are also included as taxpayers, but that is not the point I am trying to make.

My wish would be that those 8 year exemptions would be halted. With so many projects that are nearing completion or have been completed in 2024 and received their certificate of occupancy, I am, honestly dreading the day when I will get my next property tax statement. This is the day when the fat lady sings and we will know more accurate numbers.

I thank you for reading, if you got that far. But somehow, there does not seem to be a short cut trying to explain. In short, please consider nixing those 8 year deals and start assessing some impact fees so that not everything falls back on us and we can't keep the kids in school, the lights on or get other basic necessary services which are mostly paid from the property taxes.

Respectfully,

Monika May

From: Cathie Raine <cjrrd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 12:57 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS: 9/10/24 City Council Meeting

I am submitting these comments for the City Council members to review for the 9/10/2024 Council meeting.

Dear Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines and Council Members,

I have a question/concern regarding Resolution 41523 (to authorize a 'multi-family housing eight-year limited property tax exemption"):

WHY is this property owner (Blue Cat LLC) being offered this tax exemption? Based on the information presented, the owner is not planning for any 'regulated rate' units to be included with this housing development plan..just 'market-rate' units?

Has a change been made to the MFTE program?

I would appreciate an answer (from you/Debbie Bingham)...and/or further information being provided to me (and residents).

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie (Raine) Urwin
Phone #: (253) 431-6689

From: Jay Fish <bartenderfarmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:53 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Watch "Community gives feedback on gunshot detection technology pilot in Tacoma" on YouTube

Good afternoon Council members and the Mayor of the City of Tacoma Washington. I live in the City of Tacoma Council District #4 and we the Citizens of the Eastside don't want the Gunshot detection systems installed in our City of Tacoma. Many cities across the country have the data that it's not effective and just more harassment to the people of color community's within there Cities. The police budget should be spent on more effective Peace Officer Training and bring the numbers up on more officers on the streets with human resources personnel to handle the problem we face in Tacoma. Also we need to change the Charter to the form of Government so we the people can vote 🗳️ for the proper representation ie a Strong Council and Mayor form of government and also a true Police Accountability Commission with teeth to tackle real problems within our community and the Police Department. We should be adopting the Geroge Floyd Policing Accountability and Reform act pass by the House of Congress and add a few true Accountability aspects to The City of Tacoma law. Please vote no for this this failed gunshot detection technology systems in the City of Tacoma. We need true Police Accountability and Reform Act and a Commission with power to make real change for our City of Tacoma Washington.

Sincerely
Jay Herring

https://youtu.be/M-yLkgapUpU?si=L9jyFnqSZX_9Syn7

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Hines, John; Scott, Jamika; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; City Clerk's Office; Diaz, Olgy; Bushnell, Joe; Sadalge, Sandesh; Daniels, Kiara; Woodards, Victoria
Subject: Homeless encampments spreading again

There are now reports that Homeless are setting up camp in the Pople's Park again and it's growing people have called the city and nothing is being done. What does it take for the city to do action promptly?

Four other places at homeless encampments are setting up again

On the east side of I-5 and the South 48th Street overpass there are encampments there with tents garbage strewn everywhere this is on the hillside between south Alaska street down the I-5 on the east side of the freeway I've called more than once in the last 3 weeks and NOTHING AND I MEAN NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE

They're also people in tents when you're going westbound Highway 16 and take the South 19th Street East exit

When you come to the stop sign you look to your left and there are tents in that triangle dirt area between the off-ramp and South 19th Street and it's been there for 3 weeks

Finally, there is another encampment on the hillside where you merge onto highway 16 eastbound from Orchard Street.

It's a dark green tent so they're trying to hide it and it's directly in line with the Korean Church on Orchard Street and the new apartment complex they are building, it is halfway down the hillside to highway 16.

I look forward to any and all replies from the council members that have these districts this needs to be dealt with promptly.

We are fed up as Citizens and everybody says well where are they supposed to go quite frankly I don't care! I don't want them in my area!

Just a week ago South 19th and Steven Street was populated by homeless encampments on the sidewalk and my friends who live in the building for seniors across the street at South 19th and Stevens can't walk to the store because they have the sidewalk blocked with drug paraphernalia tents and garbage

I look forward to any and all replies from the council members on this if we don't get action the group that I am with they're going to have to start contacting the news media to show that it's not being dealt with in the city of Tacoma

Fred Dowell

From: Sarah Toole <sarah_toole@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 12:23 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comment for City Council meeting 9/10

Hello Council,

My name is Sarah Toole and I'm a 25 year old resident of South Tacoma. I watched a video of a council meeting for the first time yesterday because I want to get more involved and informed on local politics in the area. Firstly, I appreciate the time that you all take the time to listen to citizens' concerns and the platform you are providing. But there were some aspects of the meeting that I think are missed opportunities for public discourse.

When I vote for council members, I struggle to find out who these people really are. Google searches only bring up carefully crafted statements, and vague policy ideals. That's why I was really disappointed to see that there is no opportunity for council members to respond to public comment. I would like to know who really is representing me. To not even provide an allotted time for response I think is a huge missed opportunity.

For example, with the shot spotter cams - I still have no idea whether or not council has any power to influence on this issue. If we don't give council a chance to respond then it seems as though comments are just shots in the dark.

Thank you,
Sarah Toole

From: Margaret Morehead <mahgahret@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2024 1:52 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comments on Proposed SoundBuilt Homes near Charlotte's BlueBerry Park

Margaret Morehead

PO Box 309
Copalis Beach, WA 98359

September 7, 2024

City of Tacoma
Attn: City Clerk
747 Market Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear City Clerk,

Please add my comments to your files on the proposed 100-unit townhome development by SoundBuilt Homes near Charlotte's Blueberry Park in Tacoma. I learned about this proposed project from [The News Tribune](#) article published on September 6, 2024, written by Debbie Cockrell. According to the article, public comment on the project will be accepted through 5 PM September 11, 2024.

I am familiar with the area and whole-heartedly support the proposed townhome development. I have reviewed SoundBuilt's website, and they build beautiful, economically-efficient homes. The proposed townhomes project solves a need for affordable housing, and it is being done without the need for taxpayer subsidies. It is a win-win situation!

It might not be affordable for everyone, but for every family that moves into a townhome, another affordable vacancy could be created elsewhere in the community. Overall, there is a net benefit to Tacoma. The development would only occupy 10 acres of the 28-acre site. The eighteen acres that would be preserved as part of the development would maintain trees, vegetative cover, and wildlife habitat. Many children could safely walk to school using pedestrian connections through the plat, instead of more dangerous paths on sidewalks along city streets.

At the same time, I can understand the apprehension of the nearby residents that were interviewed for the article. Change is difficult to accept. It is hard to envision a better future, when the past and the present is all that is known. I can sympathize with the neighborhoods that were developed in the mid-20th century that lack trees. It is a valid problem that is a separate issue from the proposed development and could potentially be addressed through existing city-affiliated programs to plant trees in existing neighborhoods. When I read the article, I could envision a better future for the 100 prospective home owners and the neighbors whose property values would be lifted by the presence of nearby new construction.

Margaret Morehead

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 5:03 PM
To: Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy; Scott, Jamika; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; ssaldalge@cityoftacoma.org; City Clerk's Office
Subject: City of Tacoma budget

Dear Council Members

I'm writing in regards to the city of Tacoma budget that you've been having study sessions on Etc and I have a few comments. I haven't been able to watch it as much as I should have but I would like to pass these ideas on to you

The last budget deficit number I saw was 24 million.

Some suggestions that might save a little bit are the following

1. Cut the Tacoma City Council contingency fund from \$250,000 To \$54,000. (\$5,000 for each council member and mayor)

When this is done any funds that you take out of that contingency fund SHOULD ONLY BE USED for benefit of the neighborhoods such as the Hilltop Fair, North Cushman, South Tacoma and others

It should NOT BE USED ON ANYTHING that does not benefit our community neighborhoods and or citizens.

For example, earlier this year councilmember Olgy Diaz asked for and got approved \$10,000 to buy telephone calling cards for the people in the Northwest Detention Center so they could call home

We the citizens should not have our tax money going to something like that and I urge all of you to put in a restriction on your contingency fund that it only can be used for things that BENEFIT THE CITIZENS of Tacoma.

2. Defer purchasing of new vehicles except for police cars. That includes Public Works, Tacoma Public Utilities and any Department other than the police and no new cars for fleet vehicles for city hall employees and or TPU. Perhaps taking away the City cars that some managers drive home make them drive their own vehicles.
3. Cut back on spending money for artist in residence or paying an artist to spend \$40,000 to paint the mural (like Union Ave at STW) this isn't really a necessity for the city of Tacoma.

I'm still wondering what the \$60,000 artist residence position Has done for Environmental services. I'm assuming that's the person that went and painted artwork down on the streets in downtown Tacoma was Environmental Services artist in residence or was that someone else

I also noticed out on Tacoma Mall Boulevard in the South 5700 block in parking lot that there is a big garbage container like you can put on dump trucks. It's been painted a dark blue and it's got the words Tacoma and a fancy Style on it. Is that something that the artist did?

3. Cut back travel in all departments and cut back spending on going to seminars Etc. One example:

A question for all of you. Earlier this year eight of you went to the National League of cities meeting and I'm curious why eight of you had to attend?

Other cities in Washington send one person or they don't send anyone, why is it necessary for a Tacoma to show up with eight people?

How much did the city have to pay for the city council members and the mayor to go back to this meeting? Including travel hotels and meals

How much does the city of Tacoma pay in fees to the National League of cities?

Spokane Washington paid just a little over \$15,000 last year for membership fee, (for 1 employee) and they're not going to pay a fee for the year 2025 and not sending anyone because of budget constraints.

Is Tacoma going to do the same thing?

4. Cut back office supply budgets in all departments. Why do I say that?

When I worked as an intern in one of the departments at Tacoma Public utilities, when it was getting close to the end of the budget cycle two of the regular employees started ordering a bunch of office supplies including new monitors keyboards etc. I asked why are you ordering that stuff is there something wrong with your monitor the answer I got from both employees?

Oh, we need to spend the money before the next budget cycle, otherwise they will cut our budget back. What a true waste of money by the employees.

I know that you're busy but I'm sure that there are things that the other departments can still do to cut budget. I know I heard comments made that departments have been giving up things but when we have that big of a budget deficit it's time for them to cut more.

We at home have to keep making cutbacks and it's time for the city to balance the budget without increasing taxes and I know it's a tough job but you need to cut further.

I look forward to your replies

Fred Dowell

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 4:08 PM
To: twm1301@aol.com
Cc: City Clerk's Office; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy; Scott, Jamika; Sadalge, Sandesh
Subject: Re: Res. 41523 8 yr. MFTE 3402 So. C St.

What a great letter you are awesome you'll be nice to see if you get any replies who is your council rep?

I'm going to be riding a letter here shortly I'm watching the football game off and on but I'm going to write a letter to Amy Clancy Jeff lootors and all the council members and ask him how long is it going to take for them to get ssdalge council members picture and phone number and email address up on the TV 12 Tacoma page?

We're coming up on almost 2 months and they haven't done anything to do that what's the matter Amy Clancy is your digital artist too busy

And I know you don't watch the cable I guess much I wrote Jeff lootors a letter over a month ago asking why can't they break up the programming guide on light curve all it shows is local programming from noon to midnight excuse me midnight to midnight and it doesn't break it up like if you go to the guide and there's okay this TV shows on now for an hour

I noticed yesterday that on the viewing guide for light curve they now have Channel 21 which is their secondary Channel and it shows some programs and usually just the slides and they're breaking up into two hour blocks and now they're also running the same thing on channel 26 that's not the school district channel so now TV 12 Tacoma's got three channels which I think is ridiculous

Then when I go to channel 12 on the viewing guide it shows the same 24-hour block of local programming it doesn't break it up so if I want to record the city council study session and meeting I've got a tape 24 hours of the channel which is absolutely ridiculous so I'm going to write them again and I'm going to put you in the loop as well I want to see what excuse they have for not putting up the new council members name and picture on their website

On Sun, Sep 8, 2024, 2:31 PM twm1301@aol.com <twm1301@aol.com> wrote:

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I feel compelled to write to you after reading up on items on the agenda for the Tuesday, 10 Sep. 2024 Council meeting and noticing this 8 year planned exemption.

First, let me say thank you to those individuals who worked on the update of all the projects on the City's website (Ms.Bingham/Planning Dept.). Since those updates had been lacking I was pleasantly surprised that they had been done. So, my thanks to you.

For almost 2 years, as some of you might know, I have been following the MFTE's that have been granted since 2018, specifically doing some math on the amount of property taxes that were not collected especially on the 8 year exemptions.

For many years, you granted a great many 8 year exemptions, with no benefits to the citizens other than increasing density in certain areas. You changed the wording "affordable" to "regulated" (who is the regulating authority?) , but that does not change the fact that many millions of property taxes went uncollected and the citizens at large have been faced with numerous levies to make up for the lost revenue and the rents being charged are a heavy burden for too many of us. Also, there are always available units in many of the newly constructed buildings.

Let it be understood that I am only addressing the 8 year exemptions because they have no requirements on any affordable/regulated units whatsoever. And I won't even begin to get into Impact fees. This seems to be a hot potato

and in Tacoma nobody seems to want this discussed. Everyone is so busy with other items (i do understand, so don't get me wrong, but before you address Artificial Intelligence, could you kindly allow some time for this topic?) that this issue was addressed in 2018 and again in late 2023 another study was ordered, but now in mid 2024 it's not even in more detailed discussion or consideration.

Following those MFTE's on the agenda, I noticed that since January 2024 all granted extensions were for 12 years, which actually benefits some on my fellow Tacomans. Until now!

Have any of you checked details on this project? Honestly, I would hate to live next door to this planned 6 unit 2-story building on an area of 3,250 sf. with 2 parking spots. The estimates on the CCAM presented are also too conservative. Giving the fact that this project has 3 years to be completed and by that time, the actual construction costs and the property taxes have increased, thus changing the entire picture. I do understand that these are estimates, but I am sure in the building industry there is some kind of guide and the only figures that are accurate are the current assessed value and taxes for the land. Furthermore, basing a presentation like this on estimated building costs is inaccurate because property taxes are based on value. You could build that on the 800K projected, but that is not what this property will be worth after completion. You seem to compare apples to oranges and also, on the CCAM you will always highlight the revenue for the City, but in the end, it is all the taxpayers who will make up the shortfall. And yes, I do understand that you, yourself, are also included as taxpayers, but that is not the point I am trying to make.

My wish would be that those 8 year exemptions would be halted. With so many projects that are nearing completion or have been completed in 2024 and received their certificate of occupancy, I am, honestly dreading the day when I will get my next property tax statement. This is the day when the fat lady sings and we will know more accurate numbers.

I thank you for reading, if you got that far. But somehow, there does not seem to be a short cut trying to explain. In short, please consider nixing those 8 year deals and start assessing some impact fees so that not everything falls back on us and we can't keep the kids in school, the lights on or get other basic necessary services which are mostly paid from the property taxes.

Respectfully,

Monika May

Copy submitted by email to: cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

From: Daren Holter <darenholter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 1:40 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Works Tidy Up Tacoma Crew
Attachments: City Council Community Forum 9.10.2024.docx

Please make my attached document available to Mayor and Council Members for tonight, Community Forum

Daren H. Holter

September 10, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Over the next several months I will present to you and the citizens of Tacoma on why work being performed by the Public Works Tidy-Up-Tacoma Crew violate City and State Laws. I will provide documentation that I have received through Public Disclosure Requests that prove the work is a, "Gifting of City Services". City staff has disclosed to me that the work being performed is provided at, "NO COST". See below City of Tacoma response dated 4/2/2024

"City is not charging businesses for Business District Tidy-Up."

All over the City the Rights-of-Way in front of homes and businesses are required to be maintained by the adjacent property owners. If that area is considered by code enforcement as a nuisance the property owner receives a notice of violation and is given a reasonable amount of time to perform the required work. If the owner or owners fail to perform the required work the City can perform that work at a cost to the property owner. So why is the City performing this work free of charge? Why should the citizens of Tacoma allow tax dollars to be gifted to property owners? Improving someone else's property increases the value of that property. The only one who receives that benefit directly is to the property owner and not the City.

The Public Works Tidy up Tacoma Crew consist of 1 Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, 2 Grounds Maintenance Crew Leaders and 2 Grounds Maintenance Workers. All 5 positions are funded from the General Fund at a cost of 2 million dollars.

Daren H. Holter

Daren H. Holter
1823 S. Visscher St
Tacoma WA 98465
253-677-0800
darenholter@gmail.com

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 7:40 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comm Forum testimony re: police accountability and sweeps/unhoused people
Attachments: 2024 9 10 City Council testimony.pdf

Importance: High

Good morning, Julie, in response to the Mayor's request, I am attaching a copy of the testimony I gave last night about police accountability concerns related to how police treat unhoused people during sweeps.

Because TMC 8.19 does not include metrics related to police actions or accountability, there have been no reports to the Council about police behavior during sweeps.

This makes me wonder if the initial visualization of the "camping ban" did not include a big police presence...and that what we have now is a steady "mission creep" away from helping people and toward harassing them.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.

Sally

Sally Perkins
Practical Solutions
PO Box 5366
Tacoma, WA 98415
Message/text phone: 253 525 3020
sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

City Council testimony, Comm Forum, Sept 10, 2024—Sally Perkins

First, I want to thank the City for offering enhanced and compassionate services to the unhoused people in mid-Hilltop through the new right-of-way opportunity. These are the very people I am trying to help, and I am very grateful.

Keep in mind, though, that these are ALSO the same people that the City has been relentlessly harassing and sweeping for the past two plus years and this new program is a total about-face in the City's approach. Be very patient as these folks try to figure out if this is real and if they can trust it. Do not blame them for being skeptical; through the sweeps, you have taught them to be skeptical.

At the previous Community Forum, I asked for an outside, independent program and performance audit of the sweeps implementation and enforcement.

In documenting the concerns of unhoused people, I have identified a significant police accountability issue.

Unhoused people report police officers being rude, bullying them, taking their possessions with no warning, shaking and rattling their tents, threatening them with jail, etc. And at least one unhoused person was given a TPD blue case number card and told that they were the "case." What does that mean, when a police officer tells an unhoused person that they are now a case number??

What are the policies and procedures that govern the behavior of police officers carrying out sweeps? What role has CPAC played in reviewing the policies before they were implemented? Who is overseeing police behavior at sweeps? Who is reviewing body cam audio and video for officer compliance with policies and procedures?

I would like written answers to each of these questions.

[next page]

The larger issue is that accountability measures within the TPD are weak or non-existent. A performance audit would give you the information you need to address this police accountability problem related to the sweeps.