

Discussion prompted by Tacoma amicus brief filing.

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 10.6.23

The Forest for the Trees

I have seen a tree split in two
from the weight of its opposing branches.
It can survive, though its heart is exposed.
I have seen a country do this too.

I have heard an elder say
that we must be like the willow—
bend not to break.
I have made peace this way.

My neighbors clear-cut their trees,
leaving mine defenseless. The arborist
says they'll fall in the first strong wind.
Together we stand. I see this now.

I have seen a tree grown around
a bicycle, a street sign, and a chainsaw,

absorbing them like ingredients
in a great melting pot.

When we speak, whether or not
we agree, the trees will turn
the breath of our words
from carbon dioxide into air—

give us new breath
for new words,
new chances to listen,
new chances to be heard.

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published in Spark: The Magazine of Humanities
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Thoughts on the SCOTUS matter

- Jennifer Ammon's summary of Martin v Boise and Johnson v Grants Pass and the SCOTUS decision was outstanding. We await further news.
- Connect city manager decisions re: ADU's and criminalization of homelessness - she contributes to the problem and blocks solutions.
- The Amicus Brief theme is that cities don't want to serve ALL their citizens. The ones that are unhoused they would rather harass in an effort to drive them off instead of address the problem.
- How can the City Attorney sign on to a brief without consulting the council or public? Surmise City Manager directed City Attorney.
- Recommended national strategy of not raising legal profile of case applies to the action before the court, not discussion with city official or limits to local response.
- Sweeps doing great harm, making things worse, cutting off relationships with homeless folks because they keep moving and we can't find them.
- Congregate shelter is not the answer but it seems to be what the City wants to force people into.
- Sweeps as a response to homelessness is akin to a child pushing their peas around on their plate to avoid eating them. It's not a solution. It is wasted effort to make an unpleasant task more unpleasant.

SAVE the DATE

STOP THE HARM

WORLD HOMELESS DAY EVENT

on the anniversary of Tacoma's camping ban

Tuesday, October 10, 4:30 pm

Gather on the sidewalk
Tacoma Municipal Building
747 Market St.



We need solutions, not sweeps – join us for a press conference and Council testimony on the impact of sweeps.



- Rally the crowd to be riled about lack of transparency after SCOTUS decides not/to take the case.
- The case was scheduled for discussion/decision on 10/27. Now that SCOTUS has requested a response by 11/6/23, we'll likely know if they will rule in early December.

A short list of things better than sweeps:

- For a person to actually make progress, it takes a lot of other people stepping up to help them tangibly.
- Why aren't the unhoused people with disabilities clients of the County Aging and Disabilities Services?
- Why aren't we looking at specialized housing like mental health group homes, adult family homes, clean and sober houses, recovery housing, assisting living

model type housing, etc.? These are HOUSING options with special elements for people with various challenges.

Other far-ranging conversations ...

- **Engaging in creative visual politics** is an essential means of conveying our message.
- **City charter review comes up in 2024.** Tacoma's current model is typical of cities with less than 50,000 residents. Some improvements could be:
 - Make council positions full time. Currently they are part-time jobs only accessible to persons with rich spouses. The work expectation is closer to 60 hours/weeks.
 - Provide staff for council members to gain institutional expertise and increase capacity for investigation/follow up
 - Reduce City Manager role to City Administrator. Administrator is focused on support and has less autonomy.

New and Notable

October 10 Press Conference to Stop the Harm plus Council testimony event flyer:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/9alk77udmetnvq7ka6kue/savethedateflyeroctober10.pdf?rlk=ist1b3kslb0xsh2lzxyauf1mk&dl=0>

Facebook event for October 10 at Tacoma City Hall: <https://fb.me/e/65AYGK1On>

FOB Hope Open House, Tracy Jones Veterans Transitional Home, 1212 S 11th ST, Ste 32, Tacoma, 98405 Oct. 10, 1-3 PM

Laundry Resource Contact Info

<http://www.laundrylove.org> camilla@laundrylove.org

Olivia Connelly, Sea Mar CHC, 253-682-2180 1307 S. 11th St Tacoma WA

Family Housing Network 5050 S. Tacoma Way.

Grants Pass v. Gloria Johnson, et al

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/search.aspx?filename=/docket/docketfiles/html/public/23-175.html>

Brief of International Municipal Lawyers Association, et al., available online at

[https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/23/23-175/280374/20230925135328591 IMLA%20Amicus%20Brief%20FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/23/23-175/280374/20230925135328591%20IMLA%20Amicus%20Brief%20FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf)

Cathy Pick & Family GoFundMe has raised \$11,647 toward their \$13,727 goal. Please help if you can.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-cathy-and-her-family-in-their-home?utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy link all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined

November 4 Tacoma Reads Event with David Ambroz and Mayor Victoria Woodard. Link to registration page.

https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/events/64c82269c0db8d2800c94789?_gl=1*_1c5c4hj*_ga*Mjk3MjYyMjU0LjE2OTY2MTI0MzI.*_ga_FKNVC3J3FG*MTY5NjYxMjQzMi4xLjEuMTY5NjYxMjQzMi4wLjAuMA..*_ga_G99DMMNG39*MTY5NjYxMjQzMi4xLjEuMTY5NjYxMjQzMi4wLjAuMA..

Richard Dorsett has loaner copies of A Place Called Home (David Ambroz), the Tacoma Reads adult selection for 2023. David will be in Tacoma on stage with Mayor Woodards on November 4 at UWT. I have a limited number of copies “for keeps,” if that works better for you. Richard, 253-442-3045.

WA State Bedbug Info:

<https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/pests/bedbugs#:~:text=Adult%20bed%20bugs%20are%20about,swell%20and%20become%20bright%20red.>

Pierce County Covid Dashboard

<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/diseases/covid-19/pierce-county-cases>

Save the Date for Oct. 19 Salvation Army Tacoma fundraising breakfast. For reservations contact Stacy.Blaisdell@usw.salvationarmy.org

https://tacoma.salvationarmy.org/tacoma_corps/events/save-the-date

Review of Laurie Davenport’s Art of Survival

<http://plyhc.org/blog/2023/10/3/the-art-of-survival>

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization’s good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 😊

Other Upcoming Dates

Oct 10: World Homeless Day. See above for Tacoma action information.

Oct 11-Nov.14: One year anniversary of City Council vote and implementation of the Tacoma camping buffer zone ban and intensified sweeps in affected zones. Various activities TBA.

October 19: Zoom Webinar: Tenant Protections in Tacoma – Update on Tacoma’s New Rental Housing Code and Proposed Changes on the Ballot. 6-7 pm : (presentation by Wyatt Fisher, Housing Justice Project Staff Attorney with Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers. Sponsored by Coalition to End Homelessness, Tacoma/Pierce Co. League of Women voters, Tacoma Pro Bono). No fee.

October 20: Out of the Box Conference on Housing. 10 am-3 pm. Sponsored by Fair Housing Center of Washington held at The STAR Center 3873 S 66th St Tacoma. More info contact Rosemary at rpowers@eou.edu \$35 registration through Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-of-the-box-conference-on-housing-registration-661508177767?aff=oddtcreator>

November 1: Collaboration for a Cause puts resources and services in in one place at one time to help find find stability and quality employment in their own community. Attendees can connect to a variety of services including basic needs, employment, education & training, health, youth, LGBTQ+, veterans, and disability services. We expect over 1,000 people in attendance for this one-day event, coming to the Tacoma Dome on Wednesday, November 1st from 10am-4pm! Registration for a vendor space and sponsorship ends on September 14, with standard vendor registration ending on October 1. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-for-a-cause-vendor-registration-registration-685886865077>

Early 2024: Un-conference on Housing Options for 0-30% AMI Residents. Organized by Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness.

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Covid is still here.

<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/homelessness-providers-toolkit>

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

How to sign up for Coalition listserv:

You can sign up for the email lists here: <http://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>