

How do we change the conversation to focus more on solutions? Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 10.13.23

I Belong There

I belong there. I have many memories. I was born as everyone is born.
I have a mother, a house with many windows, brothers, friends, and a prison cell with a chilly window! I have a wave snatched by seagulls, a panorama of my own.
I have a saturated meadow. In the deep horizon of my word, I have a moon, a bird's sustenance, and an immortal olive tree.
I have lived on the land long before swords turned man into prey.
I belong there. When heaven mourns for her mother, I return heaven to her mother. And I cry so that a returning cloud might carry my tears.
To break the rules, I have learned all the words needed for a trial by blood.
I have learned and dismantled all the words in order to draw from them a single word: Home.

From Unfortunately, It Was Paradise by Mahmoud Darwish © 2003 by the Regents of the University of California.

"... in the end we are all exiles. The occupier and myself—both of us suffer from exile ... All of us on this beautiful planet Earth, we are all neighbors, we are all exiles, we are all walking in the same human fate, and what unites us is the need to tell the story of this exile." — Mamoud Darwish

Problems Identified

- We're missing low income and essential worker housing.
- "The city is focused on solutions; just not helpful ones."
- Advocates of camping ban seem focused on visible homelessness.
- Discussed the reality that City thinks sweeps are "making 200,000 people happy."
- Replicated efforts and supplies, lost lives, emergency room visits, injuries: None of this represents efficient use of resources.

Solutions to Pursue

- Several low barrier sanctioned encampments with services and close to public transportation.
- Next step: self-managing, systems supported, sanctioned encampments.
- City needs to focus more on where people can go, how we can engage and serve people on street, more low barrier entry points and places to be, less focus on "banning, banning, banning."
- \$36M was reportedly spent in homeless response - it would be helpful to have a report that show how these funds were actually used.

- Find and distribute research the address impact of sweeps - maybe a white paper on this – get that empirical EVIDENCE OUT THERE Be fearless about talking with people who think differently about sweeps. Listen first – find common ground – go from there.
- Engage the business community – chamber, etc. dialog.
- Recognize common humanity – everyone has beliefs – let’s talk.
- Does the Coalition have priorities that could inform policy for the city and county?
- Social housing is a big goal to work toward.
- Any discussion of any initiatives to put forward such as the City or County to issue General Obligation Bonds as they did in LA or a Hotel Tax (avoids impact on local citizens).
- Need more assistance for people with vouchers trying to find housing: increase their success rate. 45% with vouchers don’t find housing.
- “Ending sweeps” not political possible at moment; how do we document and address harm?
- Support services are complementary to providing shelter – not an either or – needs to be services AND shelter.
- Visuals (like Timothy’s Tents) that ask questions that may stay with people longer than the written word.
- Folks at the state level are really interested in seeing if Initiative 1 passes in Tacoma because it will show potential for broader support of tenant protections.
- There is interest in community supports that intersect health, housing etc:
- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/ECM/Pages/Home.aspx#:~:text=Community%20Supports%20are%20services%20that,higher%2C%20costlier%20levels%20of%20care.>



Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Free wound care clinic every Friday afternoon, TNE clinic at the STD room at T-PCHD on S 37th & Pacific. Spread the word.

Contact info for Avon Curtis, Arms Around You: Acurtis@armsaroundyou.org

Tacoma Tenants' Rights Initiative Fundraiser & GOTV Rally, October 22, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, Dystopian State Brewing, <https://www.tacoma4all.org/>

RSVP for Event:

https://secure.everyaction.com/ZY4tpzjVN0Ss_8RSuY8fKg2?emci=0486f0e0-2a5e-ee11-9937-00224832eb73&emdi=a151e014-8161-ee11-9937-00224832eb73&ceid=390569

Volunteer Here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/77jesyqBKUadQfRHDgK6oA2>

Contact Tacoma for All: Bill Hanawalt, Tacoma for All, whanawalt@gmail.com
253.219.8275 (personal cell)

The opposition argument to Initiative 1 may be found here:

<https://votenameasure1tacoma.com/>.

<https://www.tpcar.org/assets/pdf/NoONeOne1pager/>.

Protections for Familial Status in Housing

<https://www.hum.wa.gov/fair-housing/familial-status#:~:text=Under%20the%20Fair%20Housing%20Act%2C%20housing%20providers%20cannot%3A&text=Apply%20different%20terms%20or%20conditions,of%20perceived%20behavior%20of%20children>

HUD Announces \$212 Million Funding Opportunity to Expand Affordable Housing Options for Persons with Disabilities

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_23_235

Free Food & Resources Market, Saturdays, 10-12 AM, 4819 S 12th Tacoma WA. everyone welcome. You can pick up food for others.

To attend the Homeless Crisis Response System Roundtable Discussion

October 13th, 11 am (Today): <https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYlc-2qrT4vG9XqZRwCpfvTkd3Z-Ob8fNmng>

October 17th, 3 pm: <https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoc-usrjMtHtWdrkA9sE2b8lfl-bsjKDxk>

October 19th, 10 am:

<https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtfuqtpzlpHNf7laZNPVWztLy5vAKgbgl>

Order free at home Covid tests: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

The new WA DOH respiratory illness dashboard (filter by "Elevate Health" to see local data): <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/diseases-and-chronic-conditions/communicable-disease-surveillance-data/respiratory-illness-data-dashboard>

Aging and Disability Resources: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/1986/Aging-and-Disability-Resources>

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

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

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

Neighborhood Clinic 40th Anniversary Gala: <https://neighborhoodclinetacoma.org/gala/>

For info on Candidate Forums, see League of Women Voters website <https://lwvtpc.org> go to menu item titled “elections/voting” to find 2023 Candidate Forums with links for both upcoming forums and videos of previous 2023 forums.

Cathy Pick & Family GoFundMe has raised \$12,287 toward their \$13,727 goal as of 10/13. 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

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.

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization’s good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 🙏 If anyone knows of agencies with resources for unsheltered elders and/or people with infants please let me know and I'll invite the organization to offer a Partner Spotlight. tpdrutis@nctacoma.org. NOTE: working out an email glitch, please cc rpowers@eou.edu so Rosemary can let me know if anything gets missed.

Other Upcoming Dates

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

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>

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..

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

Press Links

News Tribune Op-Ed: I'm a Landlord and I support Tacoma's Tenant's Rights Initiative.

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article280354549.html>

"Irritated" about the Camping Ban

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/tacoma-residents-voice-irritations-over-camping-ban-thats-not-solving-problem/MIHH6XQ535GVXPZOM2S3CZI3YM/>

Tacoma's \$10-12M Homeless Shelter Shortfall

<https://www.nwpb.org/2023/10/11/tacoma-is-facing-a-10-12-million-funding-gap-for-homeless-shelters/>

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Covid is still here.

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

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>

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>