February 19, 2021

Mayor Victoria Woodards

Members of the Tacoma City Council

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, believe that it is possible to end homelessness in the City of Tacoma and across Pierce County but only if we take a regional approach. The Coalition believes we need a Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness. Our recent Safe Shelter Summits, in partnership with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards, have demonstrated the breadth of community engagement and commitment to help every person experiencing homelessness live in safe shelter. We must work concurrently to establish permanently housing. To do so, we must coordinate our efforts and be strategic in use of our resources.

The Coalition is prepared to lead the effort to develop a Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness. This plan will be based on functional zero: a state in which every person experiencing homelessness is immediately offered shelter acceptable to them and an appropriate permanent housing intervention.

The Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness will be the overarching regional strategy for ending homelessness. It will begin with engagement of people experiencing homelessness and be guided by their lived experience, existing official plans, strategies, best practices, knowledge, and the work of the breadth of organizations, agencies, and individuals across Pierce County.

The Coalition’s first goal is to end street homelessness by November 1st, 2021.

The Coalition requests the formal support of the City of Tacoma by Council Resolution. We are asking the same of the Pierce County Council and County Executive Dammeier.

Formal support means endorsing the Pierce County Regional Plan to End Homelessness planning process, dedicating staff time to shape the plan under the direction of the Coalition, ratification of the plan, centralizing homeless funding decisions in alignment with the priorities in the plan, aligning homeless policies and procedures with other jurisdictions, and advocating for local, state, federal and private funding sources to fund the plan.

The Coalition will be responsible for monitoring progress on the plan, producing monthly dashboards, and reporting directly to City and County Councils as appropriate.

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, look forward to this new relationship with the City of Tacoma and Pierce County.