

**From:** Jodi Cook <jodi.cook0983@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:51 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Walker, Kristina; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy; Ushka, Catherine; Daniels, Kiara; Bushnell, Joe; Blocker, Keith  
**Subject:** Ordinance #28926 - Written comment Tree Ordinance  
**Attachments:** Esteemed City Council Members wc-1.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

12/4/2023

Page 1 of 3

Esteemed City Council Members,

My name is Jodi Cook, I am giving voice today for the Council to approve the City Foresters recommendations via Ordinance #28926

Additionally, I am bringing to your attention a map published by The Urbanist which shows a more accurate picture of Tacoma neighborhoods tree canopy, using City and census tract data.

This analysis, when removing the Commencement Bay gulches; shoreline slopes to the west and Pt Defiance, reflects Tacoma neighborhoods at only 15.3% - not 20% canopy.

<https://www.theurbanist.org/2022/01/12/tree-canopy-analysis-shows-tacoma-rezone-critics-exaggerate-concerns/>

The “Roots around Town” map, attached, coded in “orange” dominates areas south of Commencement Bay at 10 to 20% canopy.

Significantly, this map demonstrates that even affluent areas of Tacoma largely don’t correspond to assurances of greater tree canopy – “yellow” at 20-30%. More likely the 80+ older era neighborhoods who planted and allowed these trees to age beyond 20 – 30 years, kicking in trees major asset to filter carbon dioxide, equates to better health stats shown in the Equity Index Tool for these areas.

Tacoma is not attracting higher wage employers as organizations know:

Healthy Employees = lower medical benefits paid out.

Increased housing density and retaining mature tree canopy can’t be mutually exclusive. Protect mature canopy while aggressively planting new canopy, especially on City owned ROW.

What will it cost to reverse and correct this trend?

Direct City Forestry to develop a game plan then identify new funding sources. Growth should pay for growth, but don’t under estimate residents, they have surprised the City when passing more robust funding via property tax increases for streets, parks and Tacoma creates. Yes Tacoma has many crisis’, again, but to once again ignore tree canopy to be kicked down the road, will guarantee Tacoma as unfit and a undesirable environment.

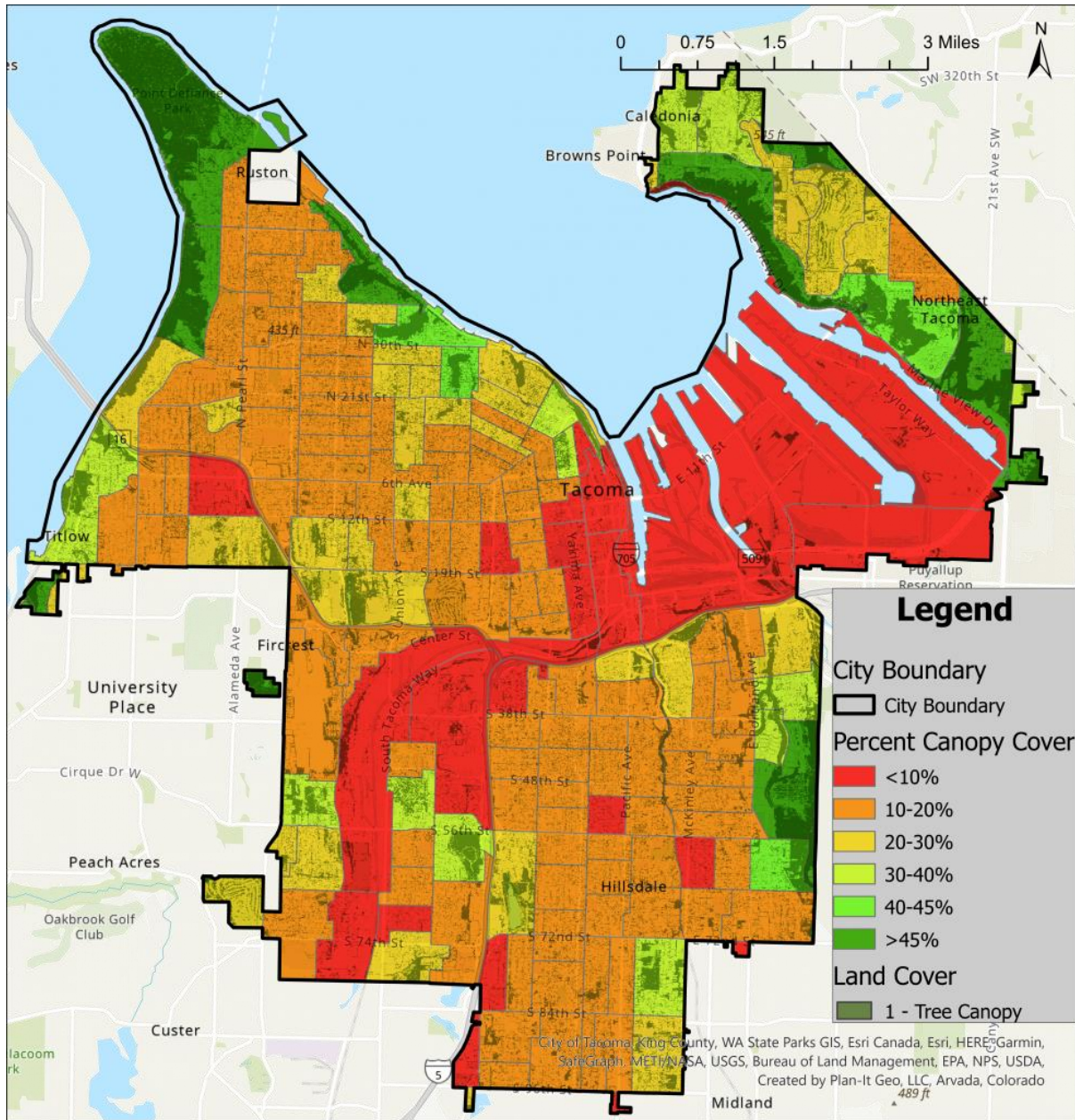
Home in Tacoma must integrate more than a 30% tree credit.

Be Bold, Be Brave and Be Visionary as the first City Council to take codified actions and put Tacoma on the map to reach 30% canopy by 2030. We have 7 years to plant 10,500 trees – let’s do the math, fund and execute!

Appreciate all of your service to our City! Jodi Cook

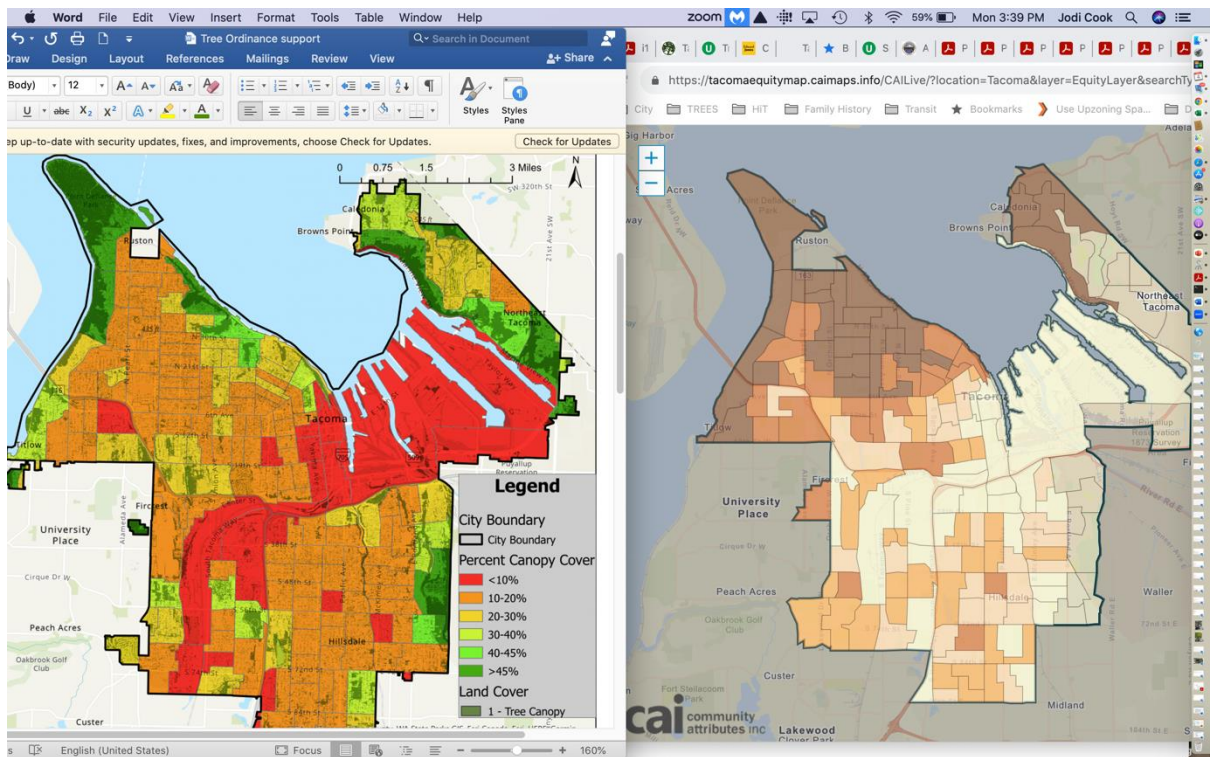
Page 2 of 3

## Roots around town



percent canopy cover by census tract alongside the presence of tree canopy. (Credit: City of Tacoma, Kevin Le)

*"Roots around Town" compared to Equity Index Opportunity Map (darker colors = "higher opportunity")*



**From:** sinderla2101 <sinderla2101@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:38 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance to ban declawing of cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please support the implementation of this ordinance and ban the cruel, inhumane, devastating archaic act of declawing cats. The declawing is unnatural and only is done for the convenience of humans. Cats should not be deprived of claws anymore than humans of their nails.

Thank you for your consideration and move to do the right thing in favor of these beautiful animals. Sylvia Ford

**From:** DONN & BETH STEEVES <steevesfamily@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** CCR: An Ordinance to Amend Title 17 of the Municipal Code to Ban Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Council Members,

I support the above ordinance to ban cat declawing in Tacoma.

I would further like to see the ban in all of Pierce County if not the state, but one step at a time.

As a first time cat owner, I receive much joy playing, observing and living with a cat. My cat's claws are essential to her health, well being and self defense and it would be inhumane to deprive her of this physiological life line. I would never declaw Cleo and I want to help ensure other cats are protected against declawing.

Thank you.

Beth Steeves  
Puyallup

**From:** Markee Ecological Garden Design <markeegardens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tree ROW Code Update

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

RE: 12/5/23 City Council Meeting  
Agenda Item: ROW Tree Code Update

Dear councilmembers,

I support removing the current prohibition on planting fruit trees in the ROW. Planting and maintaining fruit trees is a great way to increase food security and community resilience. I also support providing robust education and support for residents who plant a fruit tree. Proper selection, pruning, and care is essential. In addition to PCD's Gleaning Program, I recommend promoting fruit tree pruning workshops and partnering with the Pierce County Master Gardener's program to provide volunteers to prune trees and coach residents on proper care.

Thank you,

**Anna Markee**  
Owner/Designer  
Markee Ecological Garden Design  
(206) 228-5794  
[www.markeegardens.com](http://www.markeegardens.com)

**From:** Virginia Wright <petdocvw@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a veterinarian, I've seen the crippling arthritis consequence of declawing cats. I ask that you please implement the declawing ban in Tacoma ASAP. There are many better and humane alternatives to cat declawing. Passing the ban will put Tacoma in the forefront as one of the leaders in driving the process towards a nationwide ban on the cruel procedure.- Dr. Virginia Wright



**From:** Christine Russell <christylurussell@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:34 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing of cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Ban this practice

**From:** Fia Varela <fiavarela1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:22 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban on declawing cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support the ban on declawing cats. Please stop this very barbaric practice.

Thank you

**From:** susan hansch <hanschsusan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sent from my iPhone declawing is cruel and should be banned

**From:** starlett cunningham <starlett123@live.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please ban declawing of cats. They need their claws to defend themselves, especially when they are abandoned and are feral against other predators!

Respectfully,  
Starlett Mahoney  
253-495-8355

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**From:** Grace Meacham <minxmerron@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please ban cat declawing!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please ban the practice of declawing cats!  
Thank you,  
Grace Meacham  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Cedric Z <cedrickhalyl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I fully express my **support** for the cat declawing ban.

**From:** Mandy Mineard <m09l22m81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declaw ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am FULLY IN SUPPORT of this ban.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Marty Kirby <martykirby1865@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:45 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** I want to vote for banning cat declaring. It is cruel.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sincerely  
MARTHA WINGERD

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



**From:** Barb's Mail <bvh.alterationsolutions@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:59 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Aimee Hamilton <hamilton.aimee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:03 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support for the cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please support the cat declawing ban put before you on December 5.

Cat declawing is a cruel practice that deforms cats and can lead to skeletal issues. It is the equivalent of removing the first knuckle on a human finger or toe.

Cat declawing severely limits cats' ability to move, jump, and climb as they have evolved to do, and diminishes their ability to defend themselves if they have to be outside.

Ban the practice.

Thank you,  
Tacoma resident  
Aimee Hamilton

**From:** Jenni Guadnola <jablue@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:07 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To all city council members:

Please vote yes to support a ban on the declawing of cats in Tacoma to end this cruel and unnecessary practice.

Thank you!  
Jennifer Guadnola

**From:** Erica Blackler <e.black.5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning

I am aware of a cat declawing ban going into vote for the City. I want to express my full support for this ban. Cat declawing is cruel and inhumane.

Thank you

- Erica Blackler

**From:** wedevine <wedevine@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Proposed ordinance re: cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

To the members of the City Council,

I hope you're all aware of what's involved with the declawing of cats. If not please educate yourselves prior to the Council meeting.

It borderlines on barbarism. All veterinarians should be banned from doing this.

Thank you for your time. And please, ban this hideous procedure.

Patti Devine

**From:** Amanda Hutson <andole15@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the proposed bill to ban declawing cats in the city of Tacoma.

Best,  
Amanda Hutson

**From:** Tara Colleen <taracolleen2009@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:55 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Bath cat declawing !!!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Barbaric !!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** skuzeja@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:58 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please ban this painful and cruel process!!

I believe that the pet owners who subject their cats to this do not have a clear idea of what a tramatic act they are putting their pets through.

Thank you,

Sophie Kuzeja

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)



**From:** Susan Pearson <speardav@unm.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:03 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the Honorable Council:

I am writing in support of banning the horrible process of declawing cats. I had the heartbreaking experience of adopting a wonderful cat that I named Ollie, who was the most loving cat I ever had.

Ollie had been abandoned when his owner died. She had him declawed and he wandered away when her adult children were cleaning out her house.

After 18 months of owning and loving Ollie, he died a horrible death from what the emergency vet believed was a wound caused by the bite from another cat with a dental disease that poisoned him. Ollie had no claws to defend himself!

When I raced to the emergency vet to be with at the end, Ollie fought in arms to stay alive. After 15 years this memory still brings tears to my eyes.

Please vote for this ban.

Thank you,

Susan Pearson  
4622 N 12th St.  
Tacoma, 98406

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Greg Onsel <gjonsel@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:14 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declawing Ordinance

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support the cat declawing ban

Greg Onsel  
Arlington, WA  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Hane Greer <jegreer53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:27 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** CAT DECLAW

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This should definitely be enacted, do you want someone pulling out all your fingernails just because they don't know how to train you??? Or provide an appropriate scratching item. I've had cats for sixty years and them scratching anything other than what was provided has never been an issue. Thank you for your time and assistance. JGreer

**From:** CHARMÉE BEAUCLAIRE <cbeauclaire@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:34 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support for a declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please support the proposed ban for declawing cats with your vote.

Thank you!

Charmée Beauclaire

**From:** sinderla2101 <sinderla2101@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:34 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing ban ordinance

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please pass this ordinance. I support the banning of cat declawing- an inhumane, cruel, and unnecessary procedure. Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** Sierra Luther <design\_818@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:38 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** In support of cat declawing BAN

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I support the cat declawing ban.

Cats should not have to go through unnecessary pain. Declawing is inhumane. No benefit is added to a cat's life if it's declawed so why is it continuing to happen?

I support the cat declawing BAN.

Sincerely,  
A concerned citizen

**From:** Karen Larkin <karen.larkin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Patricia Fetterly  
**Subject:** TMC 9.20 Tacoma Garden Club Support  
**Attachments:** City Tree Ord 2023.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Clerk, please find attached a letter to the Mayor and City Council Members in support of TMC 9.20 from the Tacoma Garden Club.

Thanks You  
Karen Larkin, TGC President



## The Tacoma Garden Club

A member of The Garden Club of America

December 2, 2023

Victoria Woodards, Mayor

John Hines, Councilmember

Sarah Rumbaugh, Councilmember

Keith Blocker, Councilmember

Catherine Ushka, Councilmember

Joe Bushnell, Councilmember

Olgy Diaz, Councilmember

Kristina Walker, Councilmember

Kiara Daniels, Councilmember

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Tacoma City Council:

On behalf of the Board of The Tacoma Garden Club, I am writing to express The Tacoma Garden Club's support for TMC 9.20, Tacoma's first update to its tree ordinance in nearly one hundred years. By adopting the proposed ordinance, the City will take a first step toward implementing its stated policy of expanding the City's tree canopy to thirty percent by protecting trees located on city owned land and public rights of way. The Tacoma Garden Club has 120 members. The majority are residents of the City of Tacoma. Tacoma Garden Club was recognized by this Council in the spring of 2023 for its contributions to civil improvement in the City. We are a member club of the Garden Club of America which has over 18,000 members across the United States.

One of the stated purposes of the Garden Club of America is to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through support of conservation and civil improvement. This includes support of legislation at the local and national level to address climate change by protecting and expanding urban forests. Passage of the proposed tree ordinance will be a step toward promoting these goals.

PO Box 64235, University Place, Washington 98464-0235



Urban trees are not just objects of beauty. They promote the health of all citizens by providing shade and cooling as our climate becomes increasingly warmer. Urban trees slow water runoff and absorb polluted water through their roots, allowing pollution to be filtered naturally and improving water quality in our city's streams and in Puget Sound. They also clean the air and absorb carbon dioxide, the main contributor to climate change.

Urban forests are critical to the health and quality of life for our citizens. We urge the City Council to implement the policy of expanding the City's tree canopy announced several years ago in its Urban Forestry Management Plan by passing the proposed tree ordinance.

Sincerely,

*Karen J Larkin*

Karen J. Larkin

President of The Tacoma Garden Club

**From:** wolf schwartze <wolfsmbw123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I strongly support the proposed ordinance to ban cat declawing.  
Wolf Schwartz, Tacoma

**From:** tori watts <toriwatts@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:55 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ban cat declaring now. This is excruciating pain for these animals! Thank you!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** tori watts <toriwatts@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:55 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declaring of cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

End excruciatingly painful cat declawing!!

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**From:** Marty Kirby <martykirby1865@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Outlaw cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** Kim, Hyun  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:43 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Fwd: Declawing cats in Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Forwarding this on for the resident.

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**From:** James Gilliom <jimgilliom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 1, 2023 10:18:21 PM  
**To:** Kim, Hyun <HKim2@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Subject:** Declawing cats in Tacoma

I read in the Tribune that the city council is considering making declawing illegal. Last time I checked, the national veterinary society has no official opinion on the matter. We have had several cats over the years all declawed in front. It allows the cats to reside in the home without the trauma of nail clipping or coating their claws and gives both cats and persons a more comfortable relationship. A major plus for declawing front paws is that it greatly diminishes their ability to kill birds. They are still able to fend for themselves outside and catch rodents. We haven't seen any signs of trauma or behavior issues in 20+ years. Please forward to city council if your not the right person for this input. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

**From:** JOAN DAVENPORT <jdaven4553@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** End Cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Brendan Bowen <brendanb.bowen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** An Ordinance to Amend Title 17 of the Municipal Code to Ban Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing in support of amending Municipal Code Title 17 to ban cat declawing.

Cats rely on their paws, including their nails or claws, for various behavioral and grooming needs. These claws play a vital role in their ability to protect and defend themselves, and scratching serves to remove dead nail sheaths, as well as stretch and strengthen their muscles. Unfortunately, there is a common misconception that declawing is a harmless solution to address unwanted scratching behavior and that it will result in more cats being able to stay in their homes. However, it is crucial to recognize that declawing is not only a predominantly elective surgery but can also be traumatic, causing permanent damage and enduring pain for the cats involved.

Declawing a cat has both psychological and physical repercussions. The side effects of declawing can be severe, including hemorrhaging, paw pad lacerations, swelling, radial nerve damage, lameness, infections, and chronic pain. Cats subjected to these side effects may develop behavioral issues such as aggression, biting, and urinating outside the litter box. Regrettably, these consequences often lead to cats being relinquished to animal shelters. There are, however, humane alternatives readily available to address scratching behavior, such as scratching posts, spray deterrents, and nail caps.

Leaders in veterinary medicine actively oppose declawing, recognizing that it is usually performed for the preference or convenience of the cat owner rather than for the health of the cat. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) has ceased elective declawing procedures in its "Cat Friendly Practices<sup>®</sup>," and major national veterinary chains such as Banfield, VCA, and BluePearl Pet Hospitals have prohibited cat declawing in their 2,000+ hospitals. Additional organizations, including the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM), and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), also stand in opposition to declawing.

By banning declawing, we can safeguard the well-being of our feline friends and promote a compassionate and responsible approach to pet ownership.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am hopeful that our community will be at the forefront of promoting humane practices for the welfare of our beloved cats.

Brendan Bowen



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)



**From:** KATHY ARROWOOD <arrowoodk@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 12:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** INHUMANE

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

NO !!!!!!! To cat declawing !

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** NANCY SPRINGSTUN <springstunnancy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please ban cat declawing..it leaves a cat defenseless

**From:** Matt Duran <ithurts099@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 1:40 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please ban cat de-clawing in tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please ban cat de-clawing in tacoma, it hurts cats mentally and physically and is an outdated and unnecessary practice. Thank you

**From:** Kris Colburn <kriswwxd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please BAN cat declawing!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, I want to add my voice to the thousands of others protesting the cruel practice of declawing cats.

It's comparable to amputating a human finger at the last knuckle, so you can't grip. It's the same for them. Actually, it's worse because people dump them all the time and then they can't defend themselves. They also have a lot of behavior problems and won't use the litter box, so people dump them then.

Please BAN this archaic and ignorant practice! These are the same people who would have their dogs vocal cords cut so it can't bark. Animals' inherent features shouldn't be eliminated because a human has a problem.

The human needs to have no pets if they feel the need to mutilate them.

Thank you,

Kris Colburn  
815 Maple Ln SW  
Orting WA 98360

**From:** John Guadnola <jguadnola@gth-law.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban on declawing cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I strongly support this ban. It is the humane thing to do, and I hope the City adopts it quickly.

John C. Guadnola  
253-620-6410 (office)  
253-312-5719 (cell)

**From:** Jack Tracy <jackryan3033@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

I am a Tacoma resident and I support the ban of declawing cats in Tacoma. Help us ban cat declawing in Tacoma! Declawing is an inhumane mutilation that can cause lifelong pain. It causes cats to have difficulty climbing, communicating, playing, and socializing. This proposed ban, with exceptions for feline therapeutic procedures by licensed veterinarians, signifies a crucial step towards ensuring the well-being of our beloved feline friends. Together, let's pave a future where every cat in Tacoma can live a life free from unnecessary pain and suffering!

Thank you,

Jack Tracy

**From:** lynn williams <aricamarie@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declawing Ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to express my support for the ban on the cat declawing in Tacoma. Declawing is not only an amputation, it is cruel and inhumane. Taking their claws leaves them defenseless as well.

Please support this ban.

Thank you.

Lynn Williams  
253-273-1496.

**From:** Kris Hay <krisage.hay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:21 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please Ban Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

My mother declawed a couple cats before she knew better. Previously sweet kitties became withdrawn in one case and vicious in another — hobbling in pain and wetting outside the litterbox.

Not only is this amputation practice cruel to the animal, the human owner may unwittingly create greater problems for themselves.

Please ban cat declawing!

Thank you,  
Kris Hay

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Susan Taylor <susanjtaylor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 6:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support for ban on cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City of Tacoma,

Hello, I support a ban on the declawing of cats in the city of Tacoma. I believe we should follow the recommendation of the experts at the Tacoma Humane Society.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Susan Taylor  
5041 S Sheridan Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98408

**From:** Naren Fuller <naren.j.fuller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 6:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Fwd: Lend Your Voice for Cats in the Community

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Cat's do not deserve to go through this painful process. Please ban declawing in Tacoma.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County <[development@thehumane.org](mailto:development@thehumane.org)>  
**Date:** Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 5:26 PM  
**Subject:** Lend Your Voice for Cats in the Community  
**To:** <[naren.j.fuller@gmail.com](mailto:naren.j.fuller@gmail.com)>



## Help us ban cat declawing in Tacoma

Join the movement for feline welfare! The City of Tacoma is on the verge of implementing an [ordinance to ban cat declawing](#) in Tacoma.

Declawing is an inhumane mutilation that can cause lifelong pain and poses potential long-term risks on a cat's behavioral, emotional, and physical well-being.

**No cat deserves to go through this.**



This proposed ban, with exceptions for feline therapeutic procedures by licensed veterinarians, signifies a crucial step towards ensuring the well-being of our beloved feline friends.

**As a Tacoma resident, your voice matters!**

Take just 2 minutes to email the entire council at [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org), politely expressing your **support** for this ban.

Mark your calendars for the City Council meetings on November 28th and December 5th at 5:00 pm, where you can share your thoughts either [in person or remotely](#).

Now, more than ever, your messages of support are vital in championing this cause. Together, let's pave a future where every cat in Tacoma can live a life free from unnecessary pain and suffering.

[Send Your Support Today](#)





Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County | 2608 Center Street, Tacoma, WA 98409  
[www.thehumanesociety.org](http://www.thehumanesociety.org)

[Unsubscribe naren.i.fuller@gmail.com](mailto:naren.i.fuller@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [development@thehumanesociety.org](mailto:development@thehumanesociety.org) powered by



[Try email marketing for free today!](#)

**From:** scared.bunting\_0k@icloud.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for banning declawing procedures in Tacoma.

Madeline McComb

**From:** Pamela Paton <pd8597@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:39 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance on cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma CityCouncil:

I am once again asking you to support the ban on cat declawing. Please vote in favor of the ban this Tuesday and end an unnecessary and inhumane practice.

Thank you.

Pamela Paton  
Resident of North Tacoma

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** patricia fetherly <pfetherly\_57@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** December 5 Meeting Agenda Item No. 23 - Proposed TMC 9.20 "Urban Forestry"  
**Attachments:** City Council Letter - PCF.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

December 1, 2023

Victoria Woodards, Mayor

John Hines, Councilmember

Sarah Rumbaugh, Councilmember

Keith Blocker, Councilmember

Catherine Ushka, Councilmember

Joe Bushnell, Councilmember

Olgy Diaz, Councilmember

Kristina Walker, Councilmember

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Tacoma City Council:

My name is Patricia Fetterly. I am a long-time resident of the City. I am writing to support passage of TMC 9.20, Tacoma's first update to its tree ordinance in nearly one hundred years. By adopting the proposed ordinance, the City will take a first step toward implementing the policy set forth in its Urban Forestry Management Plan by codifying for the first-time real protection for trees located on city owned land and public rights of way.

The Urban Forestry Management Plan, adopted several years ago as City policy, recognizes the value of urban trees and calls for expanding the City's tree canopy to thirty percent by 2030. It will not be possible to meet this goal unless our present tree code is updated to recognize the value of trees. Since adoption of the Management Plan, the City has taken steps to encourage and promote the planting of new trees. However, to meet the Plan's stated goal, there must be **both** planting (and care) of new trees as well as protection for our existing trees. Tree loss in the City continues at an alarming rate. It will accelerate as development with greater density proceeds unless the Council acts to protect our urban forest. It will be impossible to meet the goal of expanding the tree canopy to 30 percent, a modest goal below the canopy coverage reached by other cities in the Puget Sound region, without a new ordinance which protects existing trees.

Urban trees are not just objects of beauty. By providing shade and cooling and storing carbon dioxide they are essential infrastructure necessary for the protection of the health of all our citizens. In Tacoma we can have both tree protection and additional housing. Both promote the quality of life in the City and are not incompatible policies. As a first step toward providing long-overdue protection of the City's trees, I urge you to adopt the proposed TMC 9.20.



Thank you,

Patricia Fetterly

614 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Tacoma WA 98403

[Pfetterly\\_57@hotmail.com](mailto:Pfetterly_57@hotmail.com)

253-228-2563

**From:** Diana Christensen <christensendm@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please sincerely respect this letter of concern.  
Let's protect the feline family; by placing a ban on the declawing of such creatures.  
Thank you for your attention.

Pawsitively,

Diana Christensen

**From:** Krystal <krystalannmiller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:18 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support for banning cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi there-

I just wanted to send a note in support for the ban on declawing cats in Tacoma. I'm so excited to hear this will be proposed for a vote next week, and eager to see it pass! Thank you for looking out for the cats and encouraging humane treatment of animals.

Krystal Miller  
Board Member  
Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project

**From:** franceskim36@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat de-clawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please implement robust rules/laws to ban the cruel practice of cat de-clawing. These creatures can't speak for themselves—we must step up to protect them.  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Annette Welch <annettewelch41@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** No depawing please

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** Lee Fairley <fairyleea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good day,

I would like to go on record as agreeing that declawing cats is inhumane.

Regards,

Ms. Lee A. Fairley

**From:** Susan Lambert <sueshappyday@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** please ban declawing of cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

it is not fair to cats to be declawed its there nature to use there claws to protect themselves and to stretch to stretch there backs it would be just like someone removing the tips of your fingers to a cat to have there claws removed

**From:** Margo Gooding <m\_gooding@q.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance to end declawing of cats

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello! Please make this policy a law and stop this painful and cruel practice.

Thank you, Margo Gooding



**From:** Deborah Elven-Snyder <desvanc@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:02 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Proposed ordinance #28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing to express my support for proposed ordinance #28923.

Declawing cats is a barbaric and cruel practice. Many other jurisdictions have already banned it.

I love my two indoor cats, claws and all. I also love living in Tacoma. Knowing declawing is banned here will make me even more proud to be a Tacoma resident.

In December 5, please vote to ban declawing in the City of Tacoma.

Thank you,  
Debbie Elven-Snyder

**From:** Lori Hadley <ljhadley37@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** support for the cat claw removal ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This ban is the right thing to do for cats. Let's end needless pain and suffering caused by removing cat's claws. Please support the ban.

Lori Hadley

**From:** Mark Cockerill <mcockerill44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please support the effort to BAN cat declawing in Tacoma. That is absolutely no reason to make people have to declaw their cats. First cats, then dogs then people. If cats are indoor cats then it should be only the owners decision and how would you go about declawing feral cats?

Regards,

--

Mark Cockerill  
(253) 884-3693  
MCockerill44@Gmail.com

**From:** Tracy Millard <tracy.millard@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please move forward with the ban on cat declawing.

**From:** Suzanne Hadley <suz845@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please stop the declawing!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please, stop permitting the declawing of cats in the area! It is a painful procedure for the benefit of the owner, and leaves the cat devoid of one of its natural defenses against other creatures.

Think about it! Suzanne W. Hadley

**From:** Georgette Reuter <gee.reuter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 3:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment  
**Attachments:** Support Tree Ordinance.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Attached is my letter to send to the Mayor and Tacoma City Council members in support of the TMC 9.20 Tree Ordinance.

Thank you,  
Georgette Reuter  
[gee.reuter@gmail.com](mailto:gee.reuter@gmail.com)

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Tacoma City Council,

**I am writing this letter to express my full support of the passage of TMC 9.20**

My name is Georgette Reuter and I have called Tacoma home for over 50 years. It has been my privilege to have worked as a Tacoma School District teacher for 28 years. Now, as a retiree, I have chosen to devote my energies to being involved with several local organizations: the North End Neighborhood Council board, the Steering Committee of the Proctor Neighborhood Planning Project and also a founding member of a new group called the Tacoma Urban Forest Friends. In all of these organizations, I strive to support ways to improve the quality of life within our great City. My main focus is our City's tree canopy. I believe that it is our "green infrastructure" that represents a huge part of what makes our neighborhoods so wonderful.

Since the 1970's, my family and I have enjoyed living in our modest home on North Union Avenue. Not a day goes by without me feeling a deep appreciation for the beautiful Norway Maple trees that line our avenue. Yet, our trees are not only to be admired for their beauty, but they need to be acknowledged for the multitude of benefits that they provide for the health and well being of our environment.

**What do our trees do for us?**

- Clean our air and produce the oxygen we need to breathe
- Help offset rising temperatures in our City
- Reduce stormwater runoff while limiting soil erosion and pollution in our waterways
- Improve the public health of our communities
- Add beauty to our neighborhoods while muffling city noise
- Offer food, protection and homes for our wildlife
- Bring cooling shade to our buildings in the summer and buffer against cold weather in the winter
- Help to slow traffic down along roadways
- And, the list goes on!

**In light of all of these amazing benefits, what is preventing us citizens of Tacoma from actively protecting such a valuable resource as our TREES?**

Sadly, we can acknowledge that up to the present, we have failed miserably at taking care of our City's urban forest. What terrible news it is to know that Tacoma's 20% tree canopy ranks lower than any other city's tree canopy in our Puget Sound region. It's been well over 100 years since Tacoma was known as the "Lumber Capital of the World". It's time to change that mindset and strive for the new title of "Tree Capital of Puget Sound". **It's time to aggressively work towards achieving the 30% tree canopy by 2030 that the City Council has promised its citizens.**

The passage of the new Tree Ordinance TMC 9.20 will go a long way in accomplishing the goals set forth in the Urban Forest Management Plan. Yet, so much more needs to be done to ensure that our future generations will enjoy all of the many benefits that Tacoma's urban forest has to offer.

In 2019, our the City of Tacoma declared a "climate emergency". The time to act is NOW.

Thank you for all that you do to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Sincerely,

Georgette Reuter

2201 North Union Avenue

Tacoma, Wa. 98406

gee.reuter@gmail.com

**From:** Diane Lambert <dianelambert211@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:59 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a feline owner and volunteer feline foster home, I would like to voice my support for the ban on cat declawing.

Diane Lambert  
Sent from my iPad



**From:** Debra Grady <debragrady@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:20 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tree ordinance comments  
**Attachments:** Letter to TCC 1223.pages

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

Please see my attached letter to the county council in advance of the reading of the Urban Tree Ordinance proposal to the council, occurring on Dec. 5th, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Thank you!

Debra Grady  
Tacoma Resident  
Tacoma Urban Forest Friends (TUFF) member

**From:** Cheryl Vance <cherylavance@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing Ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma city council. I am writing in support of the measure to ban declawing of cats. Please pass this crucial ban for humane treatment of all cats.

Thank you very much.

Cheryl Vance

**From:** Cinnamon Hudgins <waifcomm@waifanimals.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:41 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support of ORD28923 to ban cat declawing  
**Attachments:** Where cat declawing is banned or illegal.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Members of the Tacoma City Council,

Speaking on behalf of Whidbey Animals' Improvement Foundation (WAIF), we are pleased to support The Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County's efforts to ban the practice of cat declawing (onychectomy). Not only is it regarded as inhumane when amputation of the last toe takes place, but it can also cause chronic pain and permanent deformation – effectively diminishing the quality of life of a cat. This, in turn, can cause behavioral issues significantly worse than if a cat was not declawed. When this is the case, cats may end up surrendered to animal shelters or abandoned, where they don't have their natural defenses to survive in outdoor environments.

The number one reason pet owners/guardians may choose to declaw is to protect their furnishings. This is not a sufficient reason to subject cats to such an unnecessary and barbaric practice. If the City of Tacoma passes this ban, Tacoma will be seen as an animal welfare leader, where this will inspire other cities and counties to follow your lead. Efforts in Washington State to ban declawing have been long overdue, considering it is illegal in 67 states, counties, cities, and countries (list is attached). We applaud and support The Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County's efforts to see this ban come to fruition and we are grateful to the City Council for becoming a vanguard for animal welfare by voting "Yes" on Ordinance 28923.

Thank you,  
Cinnamon Hudgins



**Cinnamon Hudgins, MBA**  
Executive Director, WAIF

[\(360\) 678-8900 ext. 1106](tel:(360)678-8900) | [waifcomm@waifanimals.org](mailto:waifcomm@waifanimals.org)

[www.waifanimals.org](http://www.waifanimals.org)

PO Box 1108, Coupeville, WA 98239

□ □



## Where cat declawing is banned or illegal

*(Subject to change)*

### **US States**

Maryland  
New York  
Rhode Island

### **US Counties**

St. Louis (MO) County  
Volusia (FL) County

### **US Cities**

Allentown, PA  
Austin, TX  
Berkeley, CA  
Beverly Hills, CA  
Culver City, CA  
Denver, CO  
Los Angeles, CA  
Madison, WI,  
Pittsburgh, PA  
San Francisco, CA  
St. Louis, MI  
San Francisco, CA  
Santa Monica, CA  
Washington, DC  
West Hollywood, CA

### **Canada**

Canada has made great progress on declawing bans, as nine of its 10 provinces have banned the procedure:

Alberta  
British Columbia  
Manitoba  
New Brunswick  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Nova Scotia  
Prince Edward Island  
Québec (effective February 2024)  
Saskatchewan

## **Other countries**

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Cyprus  
The Czech Republic  
Denmark (does not apply to Greenland or the Faroe Islands)  
England  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia  
Malta  
Montenegro  
The Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Northern Ireland  
Norway  
Portugal  
Romania  
Scotland  
Serbia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
Wales

*If cat's health is at risk, surgery may be considered,  
in extreme cases.*

**From:** Mark Emery <meandp93@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** ORD28923 Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello; I just want to get my vote in for support of the above ORD. We have first hand experience with a cat that's been declawed. We adopted my mother in laws cat, after she passed. She had Maggie declawed and then the same problems arose as was described in the News Tribune article a couple of days ago - no longer uses the litter box, mean streak, biting, walking uncomfortably etc... Thanks and again - my wife and I are AGAINST DECLAWING. Mark and Paula Emery

**From:** Connie Sparks <Csparks.us-reports@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** RE: Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I would like to support the Cat Declawing Ban. This is a painful procedure for the animal.

Thank you  
Connie Pitts  
Tacoma, WA

**From:** stephen bradford <shbradford2170@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please end the cruel practice of cat declawing. A cat's claws is the only defense he has. It is as large a part of his life as your hands are to you!!!!



**From:** Phil Morgan <pmorgan@auburnvalleyhs.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Blocker, Keith; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Woodards, Victoria  
**Subject:** The proposed ordinance to ban cat declawing in Tacoma

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Members of the Tacoma City Council & Honorable Mayor Woodards,

As a model of excellence in the advancement of Animal Welfare, Auburn Valley Humane Society fully endorses and supports our partner, The Humane Society of Tacoma and Pierce County in their dedicated efforts amending Title 17 of the Municipal Code, relating to Animal Control, by adding a new Section 17.02.155, entitled "Cat Declawing", to establish a ban on performing a procedure that results in the partial or complete declawing of a cat except when conducted by a licensed veterinarian for a therapeutic purpose, effective March 31, 2024, and urge a favorable vote by you in this matter.

I also want to acknowledge and sincerely thank John Hines, Olgy Diaz and Sarah Rumbaugh for their progressive and passionate efforts in sponsoring this amendment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,  
**Phil Morgan**  
**President/CEO**

Direct Line: (253) 409 – 1501

Email: [pmorgan@auburnvalleyhs.org](mailto:pmorgan@auburnvalleyhs.org)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/phillipwmorgan/>

**Auburn Valley Humane Society** | 4910 A Street SE | Auburn, WA 98092 | [www.auburnvalleyhs.org](http://www.auburnvalleyhs.org)  
**Northwest Spay & Neuter Center** | 6401 Pacific Ave | Tacoma, WA 98408 | [www.nwspayneuter.org](http://www.nwspayneuter.org)

"You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."  
~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

**From:** Donna C. <donna0620@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom This May Concern;

Please ban feline declawing!

Respectfully,

Donna Chavez  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Donna C. <donna0620@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom This May Concern;

Please ban feline declawing!

Respectfully,

Donna Chavez  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Donna C. <donna0620@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:24 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom This May Concern;

Please ban feline declawing!

Respectfully,

Donna Chavez  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:39 PM  
**To:** Bingham, Debbie  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** RES41308

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing in regards to resolution number 41308 that's going to be brought up at the council meeting Tuesday

I would like to know the following things

What individual is sponsoring this resolution

I'd like to know when did the city of Tacoma begin offering extensions to a contractor that already has an 8-year property tax exemption. When I saw this on TV 12 I was shocked and upset that someone thinks that LLC needs to have an EXTENSION adding an additional 12 years for a TOTAL 20 year property tax exemption?

How much is this 8-year tax exemption for South Heights Townhomes LLC?

And how much is the additional 12-year exemption going to be if it's approved?

I look forward to receiving your prompt reply as I plan on making public comment on this on Tuesday

City clerk: please distribute this email to every city council member and the mayor

Fred Dowell  
Tacoma

**From:** Sarah Tien <sarah.tien3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:01 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Please make declawing illegal!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi there,

I'd like to express my support for the declawing ban! Declawing is a cruel, barbaric practice taking away first digits of cats' extremities which often redirects cats from clawing to other behavioral problems. Cat's nails simply need to be trimmed as humans and would reduce any clawing destructions. Additionally, declawed cats cannot defend themselves if they were in a dangerous environment. I'm a cat owner of 14 years of two cats and additional fosters. Please ban declawing!

Sarah Tien DMD

**From:** karebear <karebear@nventure.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:56 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declawing Ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good evening.

I am emailing you to let you know I fully support the ban on the declawing of cats.

I volunteer at the Humane Society and also have been a mom of several cats over the years. I know what a horrible thing it is to declaw cats, and how the amputation of their joints severely impacts their safety and emotional well-being.

It also impacts their ability to use the litter box, and can cause them great pain. Should an animal get loose, it also takes away their ability to protect themselves.

PLEASE ban this procedure! I am so thankful that it was proposed and I cannot wish for a better gift this holiday for all our cats and those of us humans who truly love them!

Thank you very much!

Karen Thomas

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

**From:** emilywnord@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:11 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** emilywnord@gmail.com  
**Subject:** ban cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I believe that declawing cats is an inhumane procedure that should be banned.  
I am totally against hurting any animal. We are a civilized society and we should act that way.  
Thank you for your consideration  
Emily NEU



**From:** Jessica Branthwaite <jessicab@motleyzoo.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:26 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declaw ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Yes please!

At Motley Zoo Animal Rescue I have seen the short term and long term effects declawing first hand. The stiffness and arthritis are terrible, and the kitty knows they are missing their claws. Many of them develop serious behavioral issues and will resort to using their teeth to communicate out of fear. I am hopeful your ban on this abusive procedure is successful, and that others follow suit!

Thanks!  
Jessica Branthwaite  
Motley Zoo Cat Care Team

**From:** Judith Jones <jacjones@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 1:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ban Cat Declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

As a resident of Tacoma and a longtime cat owner, I am writing to express my support for the ordinance to ban cat declawing in the City of Tacoma. Declawing is an inhumane practice that mutilates an animal for life. It should be prohibited except in cases of medical necessity as determined by a licensed veterinarian.

I look forward to the council approving this ordinance.

Regards,  
Judith Jones  
3010 N Highland St #19  
Tacoma, WA 98407

**From:** Finnegan Rasmussen <finneganrasmussen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 12:17 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support for Cat Declawing Ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am a cat foster through Motley Zoo, and I am enthusiastically in support of the ordinance to ban cat declawing in the city of Tacoma. I hope that this change will spread further out to the state and US as a whole.

All the best,  
Finnegan Rasmussen

**From:** Ginny Dashiell <ginnydash@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear council,

I would like to express my voice in banning the declawing of cats in Tacoma. If someone doesn't want their cat to claw furniture or anything in their home they shouldn't get a cat or they should provide them with a scratching posts and other means of scratching.

Thank you,

Ginny Dashiell

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** jme thomas <jme@motleyzoo.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** ORD28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

i am the executive director of motley zoo animal rescue, a 501c3 nonprofit established in 2009 and headquartered in redmond, wa. i am writing to express my unequivocal support of the ban on declawing cats within the city of tacoma.

this is a long outdated and illegal practice in most civil countries in the world because it is not simply cutting a cat's nails- it is severing their digits at what would be the equivalent of the first knuckle on a human hand. this process is not only cruel and unusual but it too often causes lifelong suffering.

often cats that have been declawed suffer ongoing, lingering pain in their feet indefinitely- which can also cause litterbox issues, the number one reason that people surrender cats. as well, declawing often leads to biting as when cats have no other natural way to defend themselves, they resort to biting- which is another reason cats are surrendered.

*in fact, every declawed cat we have rescued in our 15 years of operation has been a biter- and they cannot be rehomed.*

the reality is when people declaw their cats- for nothing more than convenience- it condemns the cat to a life of pain, suffering, and often homelessness and subsequent euthanization because no one wants a peeing, bitey cat.

there is truly no good reason- and no good outcome- to declawing a cat.

for those who are concerned about scratching furniture etc, there are so many ways to prevent this from cutting a cat's claws (with nail clippers), and putting caps on their nails (plastic tips) that make their nails soft and unable to do damage. there are also double-sided tapes you can put on places where a cat has tried to scratch- and many times people only find their cats scratching because they foolishly haven't given them posts that are appropriate furniture for doing so.

it is a very natural and necessary activity for cats to scratch and sharpen their claws- and frankly, if one can't live with the potential ramifications that, then not getting a cat would be far preferred to cutting off their digits any day.

it is shocking that anyone (never mind a community of veterinarians) would oppose such a bill and you should look at this as a disgusting and flagrant abuse of power and ego. people who have taken oaths to "do no harm" should not be opposed to scientifically based evidence that a cruel practice should be their right to do if they so choose. honestly, anyone who argues for this practice should lose their license, because it is not their right to torture animals...

veterinarians should be protecting cats from the illogical, irrational and naivete of the general population who may not know the damage this unnecessary and cruel surgery causes. their ruling should be in agreement with this ban- not against it. frankly, i feel so strongly that i would not trust my animals with any veterinarian who opposes this ban.

frankly, vets provide a lot of "advice" that works against the best interest of the animals as individuals and for companion animals as a whole. until vets are the ones rescuing and trying to save the cats that people don't want as a result of this practice, they should seriously step off and take a cue that our communities will not accept such draconian practices simply because someone has DVM after their name.

if veterinarians did any rescue of any animals, they'd change a lot of their advice on training, behavior and other things they have no schooling in. vets are not required to know about dog behavior or training at all- and yet they are often the first place people go to inquire when in need of advice. all too often they offer advice that is entirely counterproductive and harmful to the animals- both individually and to the community of companion animals as a whole. we are constantly working to fix (often irreparable) damage vets have caused the animals we see come through our rescue.

but this is one area they *are* experts. they are well-trained and they should know better than to think declawing is anything but

cruel and torturous. this is a no-brainer and should be banned- not just in tacoma but throughout the state (and nation).

please outlaw this terrible practice once and for all.

thank you-

jme

--

--jme, [CAWA](#)

-lead vocals (executive director), [motley zoo animal rescue](#)

-[animal welfare, health & behavior expert](#)

-a&r rep, [gala](#)



[Check out our NEW PODCAST!](#)



**From:** Kathleen Olson <kolson@purrfectpals.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:54 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Ordinance 28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear City Council Members,

Banning cat declawing will stop this barbaric practice that deforms cats and causes pain and complications as they age. As the Director of Purrfect Pals Cat Sanctuary & Adoption Centers since 2017 and former Director of the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County, I have seen this firsthand too many times.

Purrfect Pals focuses on assisting shelters like the Humane Society in Tacoma with special needs cats that require veterinary care and long-term housing, and this includes declawed cats experiencing chronic pain and arthritis. Dozens of declawed Tacoma and Pierce County cats have come to Purrfect Pals in Snohomish County for care over the past 30 years.

As an elected body, the Tacoma City Council has been a champion for animal welfare for decades. Thank you for considering passage of this ordinance that will greatly benefit your feline residents and the people who love them, as your history of support for spay/ neuter to address pet overpopulation and dog anti- tethering has done for both cats and dogs in your jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Olson, CAWA  
Executive Director, 2007-2017  
Humane Society for Tacoma & Pierce County

Executive Director, 2017-Present  
Purrfect Pals Cat Sanctuary & Adoption Centers  
Kolson@purrfectpals.org  
230 McRae Road NE  
Arlington, WA 98223  
253.988.0827 mobile  
360.926.8467 office

**From:** PATRICK SHANNON <patjshannon@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** CAT DECLAWING

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please **BAN** the inhumane declawing of cats, this law must be banned!!!!!!!!!!!!



**From:** Bill Carroll <carrollw13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:58 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declaw ban support

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning,

I am a Tacoma resident and I want to voice my **whole hearted support for the ordinance that would ban cat declawing**. This cruel procedure directly impacts a cat's equivalent of our last finger bones, and can have significant negative impacts on their quality of life. Please share my opinion with the city council members so they can see the wide support that exists for this ban in our community.

Thanks,  
Bill & Megan

**From:** J Corso <jcorso695@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Daniels, Kiara; Walker, Kristina; Woodards, Victoria; Diaz, Olgy  
**Cc:** Carey, Mike  
**Subject:** Propose Tree Policy Update: Support with concerns

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Council Members,

I support the proposed tree code policy update with concerns.

Given your declaration of a climate disaster, the proposed code doesn't appear to regulate trees as critical infrastructure. For example, I propose planting trees in the city right-of-way be a requirement with few exemptions.

Regarding pruning, given my experiences with learning to prune, I can envision businesses being held accountable for training their staff to prune according to best practices, and the city being able to hold the businesses accountable. However, I can't foresee the city being able to assess each permittees knowledge and skill at tree pruning. Given that property owners rarely prune trees, I advise the city to assume that property owners have no knowledge or skills and require them to hire professional arborists.

Regarding tree removal, please consider requiring stump removal within a reasonable amount of time. After the time allowance has passed, please consider issuing the property owner a warning that the city will hire a business to remove the stump and bill the property owner for the stump removal and the administrative costs incurred by the city.

Thank you for finally making it a priority to update the city tree code policy.

Sincerely,  
John Geoffrey Corso  
701 N J St

**From:** Jessie Swisher Spiers <Jessie@seattlehumane.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:37 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Megan Nelson  
**Subject:** Support of ORD28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern:

Seattle Humane wholeheartedly supports [Ordinance 28923](#) banning cat declawing in Tacoma. This is an important animal welfare issue and it's important that communities around Washington continue to ban this inhumane practice.

Thank you for shining a light on this issue and please consider this email Seattle Humane's **support** of ORD28923.

Sincerely,  
Jess

**Jessie Swisher Spiers**

Chief Advancement Officer  
p 425.649.7552 c 917.545.8469  
[jessie@seattlehumane.org](mailto:jessie@seattlehumane.org)  
Pronouns: she, her

**Seattle Humane**

13212 SE Eastgate Way | Bellevue, WA 98005 | [SeattleHumane.org](http://SeattleHumane.org)  
FOLLOW US [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#)

*[Give with confidence!](#) Seattle Humane has the highest rating on Charity Navigator and GuideStar.*

**From:** Angela Sisney <angela@harbornet.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:52 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** In support of Cat Declaw Ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Members of the City Council,

Although I am a resident of unincorporated Pierce County in East Gig Harbor, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my strongest support for the proposed ban on cat declawing. I have been involved in pet rescue for 20 years. I am familiar with the procedure which is not only abusive in itself as an unnecessary and painful amputation of limbs, but creates cats who cannot survive outside. In these economic times we see too many cats turned out to the streets. Abandoned cats who have been declawed starve to death and cannot defend themselves. It is the ultimate cruelty.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angela Sisney  
8026 Goodman Dr.  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
[Angela@harbornet.com](mailto:Angela@harbornet.com)  
253-961-5507

**From:** Caroline Gregory <cmgregory22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:46 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Declawing Ban Support

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a future vet tech, we have learned so much in school. Especially about this procedure. Declawing is the amputation of the last digit in the paw. It causes lifelong pain and distortion of the paw. There's a reason it's hard to find a veterinarian who will willingly perform this procedure. It is unethical and should not be legal unless there is an EXTREMELY VALID reason.

Thank you for your time.

Caroline Gregory

**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:14 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Rumbaugh, Sarah  
**Subject:** FW: EXTENSION OF PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

My apologies, I just notices that CM Rumbaugh was missing from my email below. Please ensure all councilmembers get this. Thank you.

My sincere apologies to Sarah.

Regards,  
Esther Day

---

**From:** Esther Day  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:58 PM  
**To:** victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; Ushka, Catherine <cushka@cityoftacoma.org>; Jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org; Jhines1@cityoftacoma.org; Kdaniels@cityoftacoma.org; KBlocker@cityoftacoma.org; Kwalker@cityoftacoma.org; Odiaz@cityoftacoma.org; Cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org  
**Cc:** - City Manager <EPAULI@cityoftacoma.org>  
**Subject:** EXTENSION OF PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Council,

I only just learned that there are two 12 year tax exemption extensions and I am extremely concerned that we keep giving developers tax exemptions and no impact fees collected that will result in property owners having their taxes increased and thus become homeless themselves.

I am asking our City Council to carefully consider these tax exemption extensions. We need to be sure that what we get is not JUST TALK from these developers and that we get long term housing for these folks who need help.

Don't sacrifice your tax payers with higher taxes in order to help other people get housing and tax payers lose theirs. I know it sounds crazy, but it is HAPPENING.

I saw a teacher from Seattle on the News say that she had to sell her home because she could not afford it as a result of Seattle levies and bonds that were passed and not everyone votes for them but they passed. So, how many people will be in this same boat with all these tax exemptions that our City is giving to developers? Think of it.

Please do not extend these exemptions.

Regards,

Esther Day

**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:11 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Daniels, Kiara; Blocker, Keith; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Pauli, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Ordinance on Animal Noise

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Council,

I read this Ordinance and it struck me that I had to make my voice heard on this. It is important that our City Council understand that we have an extremely high crime rate. Dogs alert us to something happening around our homes. My home has a commercial alley on one side and a residential alley in back. The foot traffic day and ESPECIALLY at night is incredible. When my neighbor behind our home has put her dogs out to do their business or during the day when they need to be out - they are dogs after all. We get dogs for so many reasons.

**I am so thankful for their barking. It is an alert to all of us to be observant and aware something is amiss. Some people don't like dogs and don't have dogs. That is okay. But when they provide potential lifesaving barking – you have to recognize their value.**

**I FULLY SUPPORT THIS ORDINANCE AND AM SO GLAD THAT THE WORDS or MORE before enforcement is in there.**

**Ordinance to amend 17.02.140 and 8.12.060 of the Municipal Code, relating to Animal Noise – November 21, 2023**

**I ask for your support to advance ordinance amending 17.02.140 and 8.12.060 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC), relating to animal noise, to require an increase in the number of people submitting complaints to Animal Control and Compliance to three or more before enforcement of an unlawful action; and to remove the criminal misdemeanor charge for public disturbance and public nuisance noise made by an animal.**

Sincerely,  
Esther Day



**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:58 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Daniels, Kiara; Blocker, Keith; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Pauli, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** EXTENSION OF PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Members of the Council,

I only just learned that there are two 12 year tax exemption extensions and I am extremely concerned that we keep giving developers tax exemptions and no impact fees collected that will result in property owners having their taxes increased and thus become homeless themselves.

I am asking our City Council to carefully consider these tax exemption extensions. We need to be sure that what we get is not JUST TALK from these developers and that we get long term housing for these folks who need help.

Don't sacrifice your tax payers with higher taxes in order to help other people get housing and tax payers lose theirs. I know it sounds crazy, but it is HAPPENING.

I saw a teacher from Seattle on the News say that she had to sell her home because she could not afford it as a result of Seattle levies and bonds that were passed and not everyone votes for them but they passed. So, how many people will be in this same boat with all these tax exemptions that our City is giving to developers? Think of it.

Please do not extend these exemptions.

Regards,  
Esther Day

**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:49 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Blocker, Keith; Daniels, Kiara; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Pauli, Elizabeth; Carey, Mike  
**Subject:** Propose Tree Policy Update: Support with concerns

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed tree code policy update with concerns.

Given your declaration of a climate disaster, the proposed code doesn't appear to regulate trees as critical infrastructure. For example, I propose planting trees in the city right-of-way be a requirement with few exemptions.

Regarding pruning, given my experiences with learning to prune, I can envision businesses being held accountable for training their staff to prune according to best practices, and the city being able to hold the businesses accountable. However, I can't foresee the city being able to assess each permittees knowledge and skill at tree pruning. Given that property owners rarely prune trees, I advise the city to assume that property owners have no knowledge or skills and require them to hire professional arborists.

We have two one hundred year old trees on our property. We are so glad that we do because it has been a life saver for my husband who suffers from Agent Orange issues and is unable to be out in the sun. As a Vietnam War Veteran, it is critical to protect these trees for so many people who are unaware that this is being considered and as such, their voices are not heard. But until you have seen why my husband had gone through – you will not understand how important it is to protect these trees. We hire arborists to appropriately trim our trees. They require someone with knowledge and skills and equipment. It is not something that as a 75 year old woman can do.

Remember that we are a city and county with so many veterans. Some suffering the same issues and more.

Regarding tree removal, please consider requiring stump removal within a reasonable amount of time. After the time allowance has passed, please consider issuing the property owner a warning that the city will hire a business to remove the stump and bill the property owner for the stump removal and the administrative costs incurred by the city.

Thank you for finally making it a priority to update the city tree code policy.

Sincerely,  
Esther Day

**From:** twm1301@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:28 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Comments regarding Res.41308 and 41309

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To all concerned:

After sending an e-mail to Mayor & all Council members earlier today at 12:26 pm regarding Res. #41308 I happened to read Res.#41309 which is **another** request for extension of 12 years. Same Developer, different Parcel and different location of the properties in question.

Doing the math, these 2 Resolutions will result in roughly **5.3 million in assessed property value on which no annual property taxes are paid nor the following 12 years!**

I found that the opportunity for developers was already in place since December 2021 (Ord.# 28798 signed by the Mayor on 14 December 2021.)

What adds another nail in our coffin would be that the opportunity to apply for such an extension is possible through December **2031** - another 8 years which will certainly result in all other developers sending in their applications.

In other words, any developer who received an eight year exemption (for which no affordable units needed to be planned) can ask for an additional 12 years by changing market rate to affordable, reduce rent on 2 or 3 units and presto - they just saved millions in property taxes they now don't need to pay for 12 more years. (This "math" applies to those 2 resolutions only.) Wonder how many applications you have already approved?

How is this working hard for all the citizens of Tacoma ? We see our property taxes being raised pretty much every year (I am excluding levies - those are, what I would call self inflicted through the voting process).

Also, the reluctance of the Mayor and Council to assess any impact fees is worrisome. Never mind, we can always raise the rates & fees through TPU to pay for all the needed infrastructure associated with new construction, right?

Who is paying for the shortfall in property tax revenue? Perhaps you will get your ideas from TPU? The water Dept. just covered their revenue shortfall on the WestRock closure. 5% **in addition** to the 4% that was already scheduled for 2024. But that's another issue.

In closing, let me just ask how can you possibly vote "yeah" on any proposal like this?

Monika May

**From:** Judy B <judyann.bey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:50 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written comments Dec 5 Tree Ordinance proposal

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Council Members,

The city completed the work of assessing Tacoma's Tree Canopy in 2018 and developed a comprehensive and ambitious plan to improve our tree canopy and provide the benefit of a healthy tree canopy for all residents - UFMP adopted 2019.

The current code - 9.20 - includes an appreciation and recognition for Heritage Trees - 9.20.40. However, the trees nominated receive no additional measures of protection under- 9.20.220, nor any extra valuation in fines or enforcement for unlawful removal under- 9.20.50. The city definition in this ordinance of a Heritage Tree : ..a Tree,..., because of exemplary size, age, cultural and or historical significance, ecological value or rarity, is considered irreplaceable - 9.20.140.

A Tree defined as "irreplaceable " should receive additional layers of protection.

The city has done the difficult work of assessing our tree canopy and developing a plan to improve that tree canopy for all residents. The current ordinance stops short of improving on that foundation by not taking action to protect some our most important and iconic assets.

Please consider adding additional protections for Heritage Trees and increasing fines and enforcement for their protection. The city has identified protection of Heritage Trees as an important goal under the UFMP adopted in 2019. You have the opportunity to move us towards that goal.

Sincerely,

Judy Beylerian

**From:** Stefanie Cornell <stefcornell94@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:23 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support Ordinance No. 28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Tacoma City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for a proposed ban on cat declawing in the City of Tacoma (Ordinance No. 28923). As a concerned member of our community, I believe that it is crucial for us to take a stand against this inhumane practice and protect the well-being of our feline companions.

I urge you to support the proposed ban on cat declawing in Tacoma to ensure our community's cats live a life free from unnecessary pain.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Cornell  
6015 S Prospect St.  
Tacoma, WA 98409

**From:** William Zogg <w.zane.zogg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:47 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing is cruel

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom it May Concern:

I support a ban of declawing cats in the city of Tacoma. declawing causes unnecessary serious injury and leads cats to use their teeth to defend themselves rather than claws as a warning. It changes their personalities.

There are cheap solutions to declawing such as claw caps (Soft Paws), but the simplest is cutting their nails which vets can do for a very cheap cost. But cats can get used to it especially when trained from kitten hood.

The only perk to declawing cats is selfish- to protect our furniture and belongings. If we can't stand to have our belongings scratched we should not get pets.

Thank you.

**From:** Matt Kennedy <MKENNEDY@MalcolmDrilling.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:37 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I was made aware that there will be a vote that has something to do with Declawing cats. Stay in your lane, I cant even believe that the city is wasting time even considering this. Currently the city have several rules, laws and regulations that they are not able to enforce. Maybe work on fixing the street lights that are on your maps/311 that have been reported out. A few other more important than both Lights and cat claws, street racing, mob street donuts with cops present, property damage by theft and speeding with no prosecution.

Regards,

Matt Kennedy  
206-255-5458  
Old Town

**From:** Chris Kerr <ckernj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 6:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat declawing ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am a resident of Tacoma, and want to indicate my strong support for the cat declawing ban. I am a lifetime cat owner and while not a vet, have been made aware of the pain and complications from this procedure.

Respectfully, Christine Kerr

Sent from my iPad



**From:** Craig Tebeau <ctebeau@catdoctorseattle.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 4:57 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment Support for ORD 28923

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged



I am writing in support of the proposed ban of feline declawing surgery as described in proposed ordinance. I am a veterinarian and have been in practice approximately 27 years. 20 of those years, I have worked exclusively in the specialty field of Feline Medicine. My vet-partner and I own and run a Feline Only Medical Center in Federal Way, just near NE Tacoma, where we have lived for the last 20 years.

In my early years of practice, this surgery was considered routine, and in fact was heavily promoted as a "good" option to help cat owners with their various concerns with their cat's normal scratching behaviors. I admit to being indoctrinated into accepting this standard initially, until I saw first-hand just how devastating this procedure can be to cat.

As with many things in veterinary medicine, over time our profession has slowly come to a better scientific and ethical understanding of just how ill-conceived this surgery is, in that it is not only a poor solution for any of the behavioral issues it is proposed to be useful for, but that it causes a lifelong disability for the majority of those subjected to it.

I, and many of my veterinary colleagues consider the performing of this surgery to be an absolute failure of our ethical obligation first, do no harm, to our patients.

I feel that the public needs legal protection from veterinarians who, for whatever reason, have decided to remain unconvinced of what is so obviously an outdated, harmful practice to me, my feline focused veterinarians, and the majority of our colleagues across the globe.

Below is an additional list of reasons to be considered. If you are interested in any of these publications, I would be happy to supply you with a copy.

1. Scratching is a natural behavior for cats. This removes the dead husks from their claws, marks territory, both visually and with scent glands in their paws, and stretches their muscles. Unfortunately, what is natural behavior for a cat often is considered misbehavior by a cat's human guardian, especially when furniture or other household objects are damaged in the process.
2. Declawing involves amputating the entire last part of the 10 front toes, and in some instances, the rear 8 toes, as well. A comparison in humans would be cutting off a person's finger at the last joint.
3. Current research published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery in 2017, concluded: "*Declawing increases the risk of long-term or persistent pain, manifesting as unwanted behaviors such as inappropriate elimination (soiling/urinating outside of the litter box) and aggression/biting. This is not only detrimental to the cat (pain is a major welfare issue and these behaviors are common reasons for relinquishment of cats to shelters) but also has health implications for their human companions, as cat bites can be serious.*" [1]
4. Cat bites carry a dangerously high infection risk to healthy and immunocompromised people alike. According to the Mayo Clinic, 1 in 3 patients with cat bites need to be hospitalized. Two-thirds of those hospitalized needed surgery. [2] In addition, house soiling and biting/aggression are the top behavioral reasons cats are surrendered to shelters.[3, 4]
5. The National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Infectious Diseases Society of America jointly stated that declawing is "not advised" to protect the health of even severely immune-compromised patients, including those with HIV. [5]

6. The American Association of Feline Practitioners in its position statement opposing declawing noted: "*While it has been suggested that declawing is acceptable to prevent spread of zoonotic disease(s) to immune-compromised people, current research demonstrates the greater value of proper hygiene and parasite control.*" [6]
7. The American Veterinary Medical Association posits that declawing should remain as a "last resort" to prevent shelter surrenders and euthanasia.[7] However the American Association of Feline Practitioners asserted, "*There is no current peer-reviewed data definitively proving that cats with destructive behavior are more likely to be euthanized, abandoned or relinquished. The decision of whether or not to declaw should not be impacted by these considerations.*"[6] After its review of the data on declawing to date, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association also stated that declawing "*is not considered to be a justifiable alternative to relinquishment.*" [8]
8. Many countries have banned the nontherapeutic declawing of cats, including Australia, Brazil, Israel, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and much of the European Union. The European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals prohibits the procedure.[9]
9. New York became the first U.S. state to ban nontherapeutic declawing in 2019. With broad bipartisan support the bill passed the Assembly by a 115-31 vote and passed the Senate by a 50-12 vote. Fifty-five New York State animal rescue organizations/shelters and 143 representative New York State veterinarians endorsed the bill. Efforts by the Paw Project to pass ordinances to ban declawing have been successful in the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, St. Louis, and Austin, among others.
10. Concerns that more cats would be surrendered to shelters if declawing is banned is unfounded. Examination of available intake data for shelters in the cities where declaw bans have been enacted shows the contrary, with all shelter systems experiencing lower cat intakes following enactment of the legislation. For example, the Los Angeles municipal shelter documented a 43% reduction in the number of owner-surrendered cats in the five years after the declaw ban was enacted compared to the five years before. [10] The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals published a study in peer-reviewed in 2021 found no increase in cat relinquishment following a 2018 provincial ban on declawing. [needs reference]
- 11. A Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's summary of veterinary research on declawing indicated that declaw surgery has been repeatedly shown in research studies to have a 50% immediate post-surgical complication rate, with 1 in 5 cats having long-term complications. [11] Veterinary research has shown one third of cats demonstrating at least one behavioral problem after declawing, as reported by their owners. [12]**
12. Since its founding in 2008, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association has been opposed to nontherapeutic declawing.[13]
13. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association declared itself opposed to nontherapeutic declawing in 2017.[8] Declawing has been banned by the Veterinary Associations of seven out of ten Canadian provinces: Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, New Brunswick, and Manitoba.
14. The American Animal Hospital Association has stated that it "strongly opposes the declawing of domestic cats", noting that it is "major surgery involving amputation." [14]
15. In 2015, "America's Vet," Fear Free® founder, and Paw Project Director, Dr. Marty Becker, wrote on post-declaw pain syndrome in cats and came to this conclusion on elective declawing: "Let's put this one into the history books where it belongs!" [15]
16. Many viable alternatives to declawing exist (such as behavior training, nail caps, double-sided tape), as do numerous options in furniture selection, placement and protection which do not physically or behaviorally harm the cat.
17. Given all this, declawing is still too commonly practiced and not only as a last resort. According to the AVMA's estimation, vets declaw 24.4% of domestic cats.[7]
18. Some veterinarians have opposed government regulation of medical practice decisions. However, declawing is a distinctly injurious and unethical "convenience" procedure that lacks medical purpose. Many U.S. veterinarians continue to declaw despite professional recommendations against it, and clients are often not made aware of its high risk of permanent adverse effects or its controversies.

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2. Babovic, N., C. Cayci, and B.T. Carlsen, *Cat bite infections of the hand: assessment of morbidity and predictors of severe infection*. J Hand Surg Am, 2014. **39**(2): p. 286-90.
3. Herron, M.E., *Advances in understanding and treatment of feline inappropriate elimination*. Top Companion Anim Med, 2010. **25**(4): p. 195-202.
4. Salman, M.D., et al., *Behavioral Reasons for Relinquishment of Dogs and Cats to 12 Shelters*. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, 2000. **3**(2): p. 93-106.
5. Kaplan, J.E., et al., *Guidelines for prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections in HIV-infected adults and adolescents: recommendations from CDC, the National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*. MMWR Recomm Rep, 2009. **58**(Rr-4): p. 1-207; quiz CE1-4.
6. AAFP, *AAFP Position Statement: Declawing*. J Feline Med Surg, 2017. **19**(9): p. Np1-np3.
7. AVMA, *Literature Review on the Welfare Implications of Declawing of Domestic Cats*. 2019: American Veterinary Medical Association.
8. CVMA, *Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. Partial Digital Amputation (Onychectomy or Declawing) of the Domestic Felid – Position Statement*. 2017.
9. *European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals , Treaty Series No. 125, in Treaty Series No. 125*. 1987: Council of Europe.
10. *CAT INTAKE DATA FROM U.S. CITIES WITH DECLAW PROHIBITION LEGISLATION*. 2015: The Paw Project, HSUS, HSVMA factsheet.
11. WSVMA, *Summary of Articles Studying Declawing of Domestic Cats*. 2017: Washington State Veterinary Medical Association.
12. Yeon, S.C., et al., *Attitudes of owners regarding tendonectomy and onychectomy in cats*. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 2001. **218**(1): p. 43-47.
13. HSVMA, *HSVMA Policy Statements: Cosmetic and Convenience Procedures in Companion Animals*. 2010: Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association.
14. AAHA, *AAHA position statement: Declawing*. 2015: American Animal Hospital Association.
15. Becker, M., *The Tragedy of Post-declaw Pain Syndrome, and How to Help Cats Who Suffer from It*, in *Dr. Marty Becker Blog*. 2015.

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig Tebeau  
The Cat Doctor Veterinary Center

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For anything that needs immediate response, please give us a phone call at (253)874-2012

**From:** Gracie Lucas <glucas2000@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 12:32 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Cat Declaw ban

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I wanted to email and show my support in banning cat declaws. As a veterinary technician student who works in Tacoma, I have seen upclose the barbaric methods to declaw cats. There is no medical exuse to declaw, none. Not when we have so many other options availble such as, training, nail cats, and nail trimmers. When a cats declawed their distal phaylnx (what would be our fingertips) are cut off. This leads to cats having behavior issues. It hurts to walk when they are older, they are defenseless, they innappropriately urine outside of their litter boxes on clothes and other items that are soft since litter hurts their paws. Many declawed cats are surrendered to shelters based on these behavioral issues. Please join the effort to ban declawing, which is banned in so many countries, cities, and counties. We can do better for our pets. It won't stop unless action is taken.

Gracie Lucas

**From:** Brenna Anderst <brennaa@pasadosafehaven.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:29 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Support Ordinance Number 28923  
**Attachments:** Ord No 28923 Support Letter.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Tacoma City Council Members,

Pasado's Safe Haven would like to have our support for Ordinance Number 28923, amending Title 17 of the Municipal Code to Ban Cat Declawing, noted on the legislative record.

Please see that attached letter of support on behalf of Pasado's Safe Haven, co-signed by our Interim Executive Director and our Veterinary Medical Director.

We greatly appreciate the Tacoma City Council's commitment to helping animals and creating a safer and more compassionate community for all residents.

Thank you for your time.

**Brenna Anderst** (she/her)  
Education & Advocacy Director

**T:** 360-793-9393 x111  
**F:** 425-820-1717



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December 5, 2023

City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Subject: Please support ordinance number 28923

Dear Members of the Tacoma City Council,

We are writing on behalf of Pasado's Safe Haven to voice our strong support for proposed ordinance number 28923, banning the declawing of cats within the City of Tacoma.

Pasado's Safe Haven works across Washington state, including directly in Tacoma, supporting Tacoma Animal Control and the Tacoma City Attorney's office in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty crimes, providing free educational resources in schools, and offering low-cost spay and neuter services directly to the Tacoma and Pierce County Community. Our extensive work with animals has provided firsthand experiences demonstrating the consequences of cat declawing.

As the request from Tacoma City Council Members Hines, Diaz, and Rumbaugh states, cat declawing for non-therapeutic purposes is unnecessary and results in severe physical and psychological consequences for cats, including chronic pain, behavioral issues, and an increased risk of health problems. Additionally, there are numerous effective, safe, affordable, and humane alternatives to declawing procedures. Trainers and behaviorists can also help cat owners with behavior modification, if needed.

We greatly appreciate the Tacoma City Council's commitment to helping animals and creating a safer and more compassionate community for all residents. By passing ordinance number 28923, Tacoma can become a leader in the humane treatment of animals and set an example for other Washington communities to follow.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sheila Lee  
Interim Executive Director  
Pasado's Safe Haven

Brian Davidson, DVM, MPH  
Veterinary Medical Director  
Pasado's Safe Haven

**From:** Bliss, Shawn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:12 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

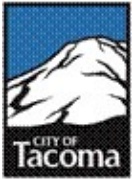
Council Members -

It appears that the 2024 Wage Increase proposed of 2.75% for non-represented employees does not reflect industry standards. Please see the article in link:

[Permit fees to increase 12 percent in Lynnwood and council approves compensation schedule - Lynnwood Times](#)

Thank you for any consideration for increasing the percentage.

Kind Regards,



Shawn Bliss, PE  
City of Tacoma  
Planning and Development Services Department  
253 345 8357  
[sbliss@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:sbliss@cityoftacoma.org)