



City of Tacoma
W A S H I N G T O N

District 5 - August 2022 Newsletter - Council Member Joe Bushnell

City of Tacoma Washington sent this bulletin at 08/26/2022 10:30 AM PDT



Greetings District 5 Residents!

It has truly been a busy summer and I hope all of you have been able to enjoy the sun and some time away. I continue to work hard as your City Council Member, representing your voice and concerns on the dais. As always, I am available to meet with you in-person or virtually outside of our regular Tuesday night City Council Meetings. Addressing the issues in our district has always been of the utmost importance to me and I will always put our district first in my priorities as your Council Member.

Today, I would like to provide my quarterly update to you on issues I have been working on. Again, you can always contact me at jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org if you have additional comments or questions you need answered.

Thank you,
Council Member Joe Bushnell
City of Tacoma, District 5

Topics in this newsletter include:

- [Vision Zero Tacoma](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Mini Grants](#)
- [Revamped 311 and App](#)
- [CityLine Interview – August 4, 2022](#)
- [Meet Your New Council Member Olgy Diaz](#)
- [TPD Ride-A-Long and Chief's Crime Plan](#)
- [In The Community](#)
- [Closing](#)

Vision Zero Tacoma

VISION ZERO TACOMA



I have heard from many of you about concerns regarding speed and safety on our roadways. On August 2, 2022, my City Council colleagues and I passed Ordinance No. 28825, which will lower the default speed limit on residential streets from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. This ordinance also lowers the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour on arterial streets in four Neighborhood Business Districts, including 6th Avenue, Lincoln, McKinley Hill, and Old Town. Two Neighborhood Business districts already have 25-mile-per-hour limits, South Tacoma and Proctor. All other arterial streets (streets with a center stripe and multiple lanes) will remain at the current posted speed limit.

These changes to our speed limits which will go into effect in January 2023 will help make our streets safer for everyone. The City will implement an outreach campaign to inform the community about the new speed limits and there will be a grace period between the time when the law goes into effect and when enforcement begins. I'm expecting to work with my colleagues on fleshing out what equitable enforcement will look like. Public Works staff will be taking speed studies in neighborhoods throughout the city, including in District 5, to see what speeds are like before the speed limit change and after.

In February 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 40599, committing to [Vision Zero](#) and the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2035. Speed reduction is one proven strategy to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes as part of Vision Zero. When it comes to the arterial streets, such as S. 72nd Street or Pacific Avenue, we know that more needs to be done to improve safety than lowering the speed limit. We will be looking at design changes and enforcement options to improve safety on arterial streets. You can sign-up to receive updates on Vision Zero at cityoftacoma.org/visionzero.

Green Infrastructure Mini Grants

We all know that our district lacks vibrant greenspaces and tree cover canopy. For a second year, the Pierce Conservation District (PCD) will offer Green Stormwater mini-grants. These grants pay for projects that remove lawns and pavement, capture rainwater, and bring native plants into urban spaces. Not only will these projects make your yard more beautiful and easier to care for in the summer, but they also reduce pollution during the rainy season.

With all the development in our region, [most rainwater is no longer soaked up](#) and cleaned by [deep-rooted trees](#) and [native plants](#). Instead, water flows over our buildings, roads, and lawns. As it moves it picks up all the pollution on those surfaces: oil, pesticides, pet waste, and more. This toxic soup flows down storm drains and eventually reaches the Puget Sound. There, it destroys habitat and makes both people and animals sick. [Scientists estimate](#) that up to 75 percent of all [toxins](#) in Puget Sound come from polluted [stormwater runoff](#).

Fortunately, more and more people across Pierce County are bringing nature back into their cities to keep [pollution out of local water](#), and PCD is here to help! Individuals, community groups, businesses, nonprofits, and others are eligible to [apply for a mini-grant](#) of up to \$4,000 for [one of the following](#):

- **[Rain Gardens](#)**: Bowl shaped gardens that reduce pollution. They capture, absorb, and clean stormwater runoff. They are a great way to replace part of your lawn with native plants.
- **[Urban Habitat Projects](#)**: Projects that replace turf lawns with pollinator-friendly and native plants. These plants soak up more rainwater than lawns, provide food for pollinators, and demand less labor from you over the summer.
- **[Depave Projects](#)**: These projects remove unwanted pavement and replace it with plants. You can get rid of pavement along the street, in your yard, or at a local community space!
- **[Rain Tanks](#)**: Large containers (at least 400 gallons) that capture roof runoff for later use. These tanks keep runoff from stormwater drains and supply extra water for gardens over the dry

summer months.

Because polluted stormwater runoff comes from all our homes, neighborhoods, and communities, individual actions can add up to make a big difference in improving our [water quality](#), protecting public health, and saving wildlife.

If you're ready to do your part to protect our water and transform your urban community, [apply for a Green Stormwater Mini-Grant](#) today!

Revamped 311 and App



I've also heard from many of you about how cumbersome the 311 App was to report issues to the city and I'm proud to say that on June 20th TacomaFIRST 311 received a major upgrade to the Customer Support Center mobile app and online platform. If you have not had a chance yet download the new application, it is available in the Apple and Android app stores. Walk-in counter service at the Tacoma FIRST 311 Customer Support Center has reopened to the public 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. The Customer Support Center can be reached by calling 311 within Tacoma city limits or (253) 591-5000 from anywhere else.

Powered by SeeClickFix, the upgraded system includes a new version of the mobile app, available for free on Apple and Android app stores, that makes it easier for Tacoma community members to:

- Notify the City of Tacoma of requests for non-emergency City services.
- Tag locations using enhanced mapping features.
- Attach photos of specific problems/requests.
- Receive timely responses from the City of Tacoma.
- Be notified of specific requests and general City of Tacoma updates. Android users will need to manually remove the old Tacoma FIRST 311 mobile app and install the new one. This requirement does not apply to Apple users.

The City uses data to help inform where we will allocate the limited resources we have available, so it is up to our district to use 311 to report issues as they come up so that these limited resources can be focused in an appropriate manner in our district and across Tacoma. Think of it like crowdsourcing because City staff can't be everywhere at once, so all of us collectively making these reports will help our side of town.

CityLine Interview – August 4, 2022



[Tacoma Council Member Joe Bushnell - CityLine - August 4, 2022 - YouTube](#)

I recently sat down once again for an interview with TV Tacoma's CityLine program. Feel free to check out the interview here, to learn more about me and why I decided to run for office, the boards and commissions I am involved in, challenges in our district and ways to get involved in Tacoma.

Meet Your New Council Member Olgy Diaz



I am proud to introduce and welcome Council Member Olgy Diaz to the Tacoma City Council. Council Member Diaz, a resident of South Tacoma, is going to be an excellent addition to our team and is going to be a fantastic representative for our community in the At-Large 7 position.

Council Member Diaz was sworn into her position on August 16 and will fill the seat vacated by Council Member Conor McCarthy until December 31, 2023. She is the first Latina to serve on the City Council.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all 43 applicants that decided to apply for the open Council position. I also want to commend my colleagues on a very transparent, smooth process to fill this position. We received 800+ comments from the community on the applicant pool.

I believe Council Member Diaz's vast wealth of policy knowledge will be very useful as she gets up to speed nearing our upcoming budget conversations and decisions. I am also excited to have an additional South Tacoma resident on the Council. If you would like to meet with her, she can be reached at odiaz@cityoftacoma.org. You can also learn more about her [here](#).

TPD Ride-A-Long and Chief's Crime Plan



Last month, I had the opportunity to ride along with Tacoma Police Department Officer Nathan Reetz and toured Sectors 3 and 4. Special thanks to all that our police officers do to keep our streets and community safe.

Public safety continues to be one of my top priorities as your representative on Council. Police Chief Avery Moore recently presented the City Council with a Violent Crime Reduction Plan developed by Tacoma Police Department analysts and experienced criminologists from the University of Texas, San Antonio. The plan is comprised of:

Near-term: hot spots policing Mid-term: problem-oriented, place-based policing Long-term: focused deterrence

Twenty-five years of research shows that hot spots policing works, with a 10 to 50 percent reduction in crime. Also, research shows that crime is not simply displaced to neighboring areas. The Tacoma Police Department will NOT employ tactics that involve over-policing, “stop and frisk” or “zero-tolerance policing”, but rather a specific approach to minimizing violence in certain areas. By focusing on reducing violent crime in the most violence-prone areas, the department can help reduce not just violent crime but aggregate levels of violence citywide. You can take a look at the [Violent Crime Reduction Plan](#), see Chief Moore’s [presentation slides](#) and view a [video posted on social media of Chief Moore’s presentation](#).

In The Community



Hosmer Clean-Up

Hosmer continues to be a major priority for me and, in July, I joined the South End Neighborhood Council as we took a walking tour and cleaned up Hosmer! I will continue to work with our community members in this area and look forward to the future of this street. I would like to commend the hard work of the South End Neighborhood Council and their love and commitment for our community. They have an upcoming walking tour that will be on Pacific Avenue on September 10. For more information, visit senco253.org to learn how you can get involved. I wanted to also give a special shout-out to the newly formed Hosmer Business Association, and I’m looking forward to working with them to make Hosmer the safest street in Tacoma!

National Night Out

On August 6, I attended the Fern Hill, Larchmont, Blueberry Park, Pac West National Night Out. For those unfamiliar with the program, it’s a great way to build partnerships between our police officers and our community and a great way to get to know your neighbors. Typically, this happens on the first Tuesday of August each year. If you did not get a chance to join this year, please be on the lookout for next year’s events! I hope to see you there!



Cambodian Cultural Celebration

On August 13, I attended the Cambodian Cultural Celebration at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines. It was a great



opportunity for the public to learn about the rich culture and history of Cambodia. I would like to extend a thank you to the Washington State Folk and Traditional Arts program, the National Endowment of the Arts, and the Washington State Parks Foundation for putting on such a fantastic event. Mayor Matt Mahoney, Deputy Mayor Traci Buxton and Council Member Harry Steinmetz of Des Moines did a wonderful job hosting this event in their great city! Events like this continue to preserve my Cambodian heritage and celebrates the diversity of our South Puget Sound region. This event will happen again next year, and I hope to see you there!

Closing

I feel like these newsletters just keep getting longer and longer, but there is just so much to share so, if you've read this far, thank you so much! If there are specific topics you would like to see me discuss here or if you don't find something helpful, please let me know. I'm open to feedback and would like to get you the information you find most valuable. I do regularly attend our Neighborhood Council meetings and Safe Streets meetings, and I hope to see many of you there. You can also reach out to me at jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 312-0550. If I am not immediately available, please leave a voicemail and I or my staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

On a more personal note, I'm excited to announce I've taken on an additional job working for the school district as an Emergency Substitute teacher and will be starting this fall! One of my goals since becoming elected was to get into the classroom and inspire our next generation of leaders to see themselves in this sort of position to become the change they would like to see. As many of you may or may not know the council position is "part-time" with a full-time workload. As always, I will do my best to continue to advocate for you and our community, but like many of you, even I am struggling to make ends meet and this additional work will help me continue to call this beautiful city home!