

**From:** Michelle Mood <moodm@kenyon.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 9:30 AM  
**To:** Warren, Bucoda; Woodards, Victoria; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Debbie Cockrell  
**Subject:** Comments

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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Dear Mayor Woodwards,

Everyone has had a lot of time to process the jury decision about those responsible for the death of Manny Ellis. I was struck by your reaction, and it was a great contrast when I reminded of all the praises you and others had given your staff for their work to reform the police department as the first and most important step of the Anti-Racist Systems Transformation. It was one of the things that really stood out in 2022 – your pride in that work. I don't know what you based your positive assessment of the anti-racism systems transformation and its application to the police department, but clearly more work needs to be done.

This is what I have been trying to get across -- It's extremely difficult to change systems. Now I hope you see my point.

Changing systems steps on toes. To get different outcomes, decision-making power and authority must be re-routed. And guess what? Those with power and authority resist it.

Whatever system was in place before, either at the Police Department or in City Departments, will resist change before we can create a more racially just Tacoma with better environmental health equity.

Your reaction to the verdict of the Manny Ellis killers made it crystal clear to me that you thought you were making a change. This means you are not a willing partner to the outcomes of city decision-making.

If you step up and quickly make vigorously empowering ordinances, you can tilt the outcomes of decision-making quickly in the direction you want. But I fear you are surrounded by people who will slow it down and water it down to make sure it is business as usual. We have seen a lot of watering down of policy that must change for Tacoma to improve its terrible environmental health inequities and its Anti-Racist Systems Transformation Resolution. You are captive to the information you are given and insulated from counter-views. Stand up and act against vested interests and entrenched power.

Right now, policy making has been insulated deliberately from the people. Any insulated system is prone to errors – only transparent and accountable institutions can make good policy and correct errors when mistakes are made. The 2017 revision of the Neighborhood Council changed that institution from one involved in policy to one that became a one-way street of information from the city to the people. This makes you even more vulnerable to mistakes made by policy makers insulated from the people of Tacoma.

In addition, there are several things that I have seen in just two years that hint at a deliberate effort to disempower our City's elected officials. What I've seen myself are carefully chosen partial truths being fed to you all, delivered with humility, warmth and kindness. I see you all being lulled into thinking all is well, wrapped in self-satisfied, comfortable conclusions. You all don't listen to the counter-information residents give you, somehow we've been demonized or caricatured and dismissed entirely. You rely on the information filtered and sifted through layers of staffers. And sometimes it's 100% misleading. I've been trying to indicate that. I've sent you examples of it.

The outcome of the Manny Ellis situation should wake you up to the problems involved in systems transformation. You need to do more. You can partner with those who can help. We look to you for leadership at this time. Keep a

skeptical eye on any information from institutions whose power must be reduced for you to meet your goals of the Anti-Racist Systems Transformation resolution. Listen to counter-views. Make new ordinances and new zoning laws now.

I look forward to continuing this conversation, praying that you can be receptive to my points. And Happy New Year!

Warmly,

Michelle

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)

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Long covid despite vaxxed, boosted, and Paxlovid

#coviducks

**From:** Luke Rambo (Rambo Total Pest Control) <lukerambo@rambopest.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tacoma Business License rate increase

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Please forward this to the Tacoma council members and any other interested parties.

I am writing this message today to express my concern regarding the significant and sudden rate increase for the City of Tacoma Business License. The chart below outlines the recent rate increases implemented by City of Tacoma for the annual business license. My company falls into the \$1500 category for 2024-2026, as seen in the chart below. Two years ago we were paying \$250 for the same thing, in the same gross income threshold category. Most municipalities that we are familiar with charge well below \$100 for their business license fee. Our business paid a little over \$600 for our 2024 Seattle business license, which was a sizable increase from 2023 as well, but still not nearly the amount being charged for our Tacoma license.

This increase is a hardship that we business owners just have to absorb. The many costs of doing business have increased significantly over the past few years, and rate increases like this are a significant hardship for us. We provide jobs for residents of Tacoma. We help to keep rats and other pests under control by providing our services to many homes and businesses in Tacoma. We contribute to the great city that Tacoma is, in a number of ways.

Fees like this make businesses like ours want to avoid working in the city, which is the last thing any of us need. We want the seat of our county to be a vibrant, clean, well-loved place. We do not want to push businesses away from doing business there.

Why is this rate increase taking place? And if it is necessary, why has it been implemented it so abruptly?

Thank you. I look forward to hearing a response from the Council, or Clerk, or City soon.

#### Annual Business License

License fees are determined based on a company's world-wide gross income and revenues. The fees support essential City services such as public safety officers and street maintenance. The table below outlines the license fees for the past several years. **Gross income is defined as total business income regardless of location.**

Gross Income Threshold	Annual License Fee			
	2012 - 2016	2017 - 2022	2023	2024 - 2026
501(c)3 Organizations*	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$37
Under \$12,000 / branch location	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$37
\$12,000 - \$250,000	\$90	\$110	\$130	\$190
\$250,001 - \$1,000,000	\$250	\$250	\$300	\$435
\$1,000,000 - \$5,000,000	\$250	\$250	\$1,000	\$1,500
Over \$5,000,000	\$250	\$250	\$1,500	\$2,000



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**From:** Esther Day <Dayesther214@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 6:27 PM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Hines, John; Walker, Kristina; Diaz, Olgy; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Blocker, Keith; Daniels, Kiara; City Clerk's Office; Pauli, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Importance of Protecting Our Tree Canopies and Growing them too.

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Dear Mayor Woodards, Members of the City Council, City Clerk, City Attorney,

Tree canopies are under constant attack by many things – but especially now, by developers who don't understand the value to our eco-system and our FUTURES.

Please STOP AND TAKE THE TIME TO WATCH this video and learn. It is important for you to see the science and especially the benefits that trees provide.

<https://youtu.be/oY8ds4BiG1A?si=7EldW3Y3vvOtS900>

NOTE:

The comments below, made by our mayor, were pulled from a report by the City of Tacoma –

### **2030 TACOMA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

“This is our turning point. We are committed to action for climate justice. When we succeed, Tacoma will truly become the City of Destiny. We hope you will join us – and our companions and allies across the country and around the world – in this shared work.”

It is time for Tacoma to take a tough stance and PROTECT OUR TREE CANOPY for the future of our city's families and children.

Here are some additional scientific reports and other items that are **important** reads. It is and has been scientifically proven that trees cool the air in our communities. NOTE: We need to preserve the trees that are here now and are big to really make a difference. Not the thin, decorative trees that are being planted and are more of a decoration. We need to do everything we can to protect our trees which have a lot to do to mitigate climate and clean air issues and provide water. **Yes, provide water.** PROTECT OUR CURRENT TREE CANOPY AND INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE NOW.

Tacoma has a great opportunity to be a leader in this effort – DO IT. Time is of the essence.

[11 Benefits of Street Trees | Hardscape Blog \(reliance-foundry.com\)](#)

In the report above I pulled the statement below.

“Finally, trees use water in their life processes. Rather than simply returning water to the ground, a tree also returns moisture to the air in a process called transpiration. A mature oak tree can return **40,000 gallons of water** to the atmosphere per year.”

Another important study/report:

[Urban Trees and Climate Change - Canopy : Canopy](#)

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[How 5 cities plan to use Tree Canopy to fight climate change \(blog.google\)](#)

Planting trees in cities helps provide shade, lower temperatures and contribute to cleaner air — all of which are huge benefits when it comes to adapting to the effects of climate change. That's why we're expanding our [Environmental Insights Explorer Tree Canopy insights to more than 100 cities](#) around the world next year, helping local governments fight climate change. We chatted with city officials in Los Angeles, Louisville, Chicago, Austin and Miami to learn more about how they plan to use Tree Canopy insights to build thriving, sustainable cities in 2021 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Esther Day