

**From:** Kirsten Carlson <kcarlson3416@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:42 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Kirsten Carlson  
**Subject:** Rebuke to City Leadership

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I am writing in response to recent statements made by the Mayor, Police Chief, and several Councilmembers in the wake of the verdict in the Manny Ellis trial. These statements are profoundly damaging to our community as they sow seeds of distrust with the institution of policing as well as the criminal justice system.

The officers involved in this case were subject to multiple investigations and a trial by jury. They have been exonerated of any wrongdoing, yet city leadership continues to impugn their character and suggest that the trial was somehow tainted or the verdict racist. This behavior on the part of city leadership is irresponsible at best and deeply cynical at worst.

Trust is integral to the functioning of any society. That includes trust in one another, in our public institutions and in our leaders. Trust has been in precipitous decline in recent years. Donald Trump cast doubt on election integrity in 2020 because he did not agree with the outcome of the election. This was damaging to our country. In this case, city leadership has cast doubt on our criminal justice system, presumably because they do not agree with the outcome of the trial. This is damaging to our city. As difficult as it has been in recent years for Tacoma to hire and retain quality police officers, city leadership has just made the situation worse.

City leaders have put politics before the good of community. Real leaders would have shown empathy for the loved ones of Mr. Ellis while at the same time respecting the verdict in this trial. They would encourage faith in our institutions. They would acknowledge the difficult job of policing while maintaining accountability. They would not seek to divide people by race to further their own narrow agenda. Finally, they would not lay waste to the city they represent just to virtue signal to a particular constituency. It's too bad Tacoma doesn't have real leaders.

Kirsten Carlson

**From:** Tom Giske <tgiske@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:44 AM  
**To:** Elliott Barnett  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; jscott@cityoftacoma.org; Ushka, Catherine; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina  
**Subject:** URGENT: Home-in-Tacoma and the City's Urban Forest  
**Attachments:** Letter to Elliott Barnett v3.pdf

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Please see attached letter from our team.

*Tom Giske, member  
Tacoma Urban Forest Friends (TUFF)  
Advocates for a Thriving Urban Forest in Tacoma*

January 31, 2024

Elliott Barnett, Urban Planner  
City of Tacoma

Hello Elliott,



We are encouraged by the work you are doing to protect and extend our tree canopy as an integral part of Home-in-Tacoma. It is both reasonable and appropriate to combine this effort with the increase in housing density you seek with Home-in-Tacoma. Before you complete your work, we want to give you the best of our thinking, as gathered, discussed, and summarized through many hours of research and debate.

1. We agree the municipal code must recognize that established trees on private land have become a significant part of neighborhood canopies and therefore must be preserved for the public at large, and who must therefore be given the opportunity to comment when variances are requested.
2. The code must state the number of trees that need to be planted citywide to achieve a 30% canopy, with the same for areas designated 'in need', along with providing the financial and staffing means to make it happen within the city's stated timeframe of 2030.
3. The code, which needs to require at least 30% tree cover for each residential zone without allowing a reduction in zones that have a current canopy of more than 30%, is an important tool for achieving equity, since it will ensure that trees are planted in neighborhoods with low percent canopy.
4. Consider having HiT include a Tiny Forest/Park Program to seek the donation and/or private funding of land as small as a single lot to create green space that will help offset space taken by new buildings.
5. The code itself must provide the means to monitor compliance with the new landscape code.
6. The code must require the proper pruning, as defined by a city-published manual, of all trees protected by the code and offer free pruning to homeowners meeting city-defined conditions.
7. The code must require landscape and tree service companies to agree in writing to follow the city's pruning manual and suspend companies from operation for designated periods of time who are found to be ignoring the manual.
8. The code must assign responsibility for the watering and caring of all newly planted trees for a specified period.
9. In-lieu fees must be significant financial deterrents that allocate their use within the same neighborhood from which they are derived.
10. The code must require the city to publish a list of native trees that produce the insects to support a healthy biodiversity, and ensure our overall urban forest is at least 60% native, with guidance regarding tree placement and planting for likely survival and best contribution to our urban forest.
11. The code needs to establish the Tacoma Urban Forestry Commission, a volunteer team appointed by the City Council representing the city's urban forestry staff, the city's planning staff, the city's public works staff, the city's public utilities' staff, Metro Parks Tacoma, the Tacoma Tree Foundation, the housing development community, and Tacoma residents from each council district, to oversee the use of 'best practices' and report progress toward the city's goal to reach a 30% canopy by 2030, and to facilitate the inclusion of and collaboration between all organizations affecting the city's urban forest.

Thank you for considering this request.

Georgette Reuter	Jodi Cook	Fizz Devlin	Eric Seibel	Tom Giske	Judy Beylerian
Courtney Davis	Debra Grady	Chuck Jensen	Pat Fetterly	Lloyd Fetterly	Marty Webb
Janeen Provazek	Melanie Moor	Tim Olsen	Pamela Draper	Diane Burke	

*Tacoma Urban Forest Friends (TUFF)*  
*Advocates for a Thriving Urban Forest in Tacoma*

cc: The City Council of Tacoma

**From:** Julie and Jay TURNER . . . . <juliejayturner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 4, 2024 6:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Historic District Moratorium  
**Attachments:** Comment to Council re HP moritorium.pdf

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Dear City Clerk,

Please send a copy of my letter to each Council Member.

Thank you,

Julie Turner

February 3, 2024

Dear Council Members,

You would have laughed at the small group of people who started the North Slope Historic District. We didn't know a thing about how to do it, but the Historic Preservation Officer, Valerie Sivinski, told us how:

"Get half of the owners on the street to agree to do it - alley to alley,( meaning you go around the corner to talk to house owners on the sidestreets, too.) If you do that, the City Attorney and I will write an ordinance," she said.

So, we began on North J St. and got more than the required signatures easily. Then, Valerie told us about the hearings. Hearings, we asked? That sounds scary! And, so we went on, after North J St., taking 5 years to go from North I St. through North Grant, and from Division to Steele Streets.

We learned a lot about the city's structure, our neighbors, and the old homes we wanted to protect. Turns out, many of the real builders of our city lived in our neighborhood - business people, doctors, lawyers, sales clerks, and on and on. They could get from here to downtown by the trolleys that ran on North I St. and on North K Streets - although the streets were slow to develop - the trolleys ran reliably back and forth, carrying the residents of the North Slope neighborhood to and from work.

The process is self-limiting this way, because not many folks have the time or inclination to do it. Your idea of a moratorium on any new ones - and you are missing a bet by not hearing about College Park Historic District - is not necessary because of the vast amount of time and work it takes to gather the data. I know what I am talking about because I was a leader in the walking-and-talking that was done for the NSHD.

Please, don't be nay-sayers for historic preservation. It is not necessary to limit new districts more than the process already does! And, the Growth Management Act requires cities to pay attention to their historic buildings, and neighborhoods. And, aren't you the least bit curious about how Tacoma came to be the city it is today?

Sincerely,  
Julie S. Turner  
Jay R. Turner