

From: Nick Cruthers <nickc253@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Woodards, Victoria; Scott, Jamika; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Hines, John; Pauli, Elizabeth; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please appoint Brett Johnson for District 4

Members of Tacoma City Hall,

I'm writing today to pledge my support and encourage your consideration of Brett Johnson for appointment to the District 4 vacancy. Brett has a strong connection and history with District 4 that will make him an effective advocate for the needs of the district.

Brett has a lengthy record of volunteering and community involvement which give him a unique perspective not only for the needs of the district, but the city as a whole. Brett's 14 years of experience as a business owner in Tacoma's green economy is something missing from the sitting council that I believe can strengthen the policies coming from city hall and improve Tacoma for everyone. Additionally, I'm impressed and encouraged by his commitment to diversity that's visible to all that interact with him in both his personal and professional life.

I strongly encourage you to appoint the applicant that will best serve the needs of both District 4 and Tacoma best. I believe Brett Johnson is that applicant.

Thank you,

Nick Cruthers
East Tacoma
253-653-8026

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Hines, John; City Clerk's Office
Subject: Resolution 41458

I am writing in regards to the notice on city of Tacoma Facebook page for RES41458 on 7/1/24

It states that it's a resolution to increase the contract with Green Earthworks by \$2,432, 433.59 to a cumulative total of \$4,616,293.65 for homeless encampment mitigation.

Can someone provide the details of the length of this contract, when did this start and when will it end?

What does the mitigation Services include?

I thought we had City crews that were doing removal of encampments Etc. Why are we using an outside company?

Approximately 3 months ago I observed City trucks and Tacoma Police at Wapato Hills at South 56th and Tacoma Mall Boulevard cleaning up so again I question why are we using an outside firm?

I look forward to your reply

Fred Dowell
Tacoma

From: twm1301@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 2:02 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe
Subject: Res.41458 GEW NW Contract Award

Good afternoon.

My comment if regarding Res. 41458 which is on the agenda for the Council Meeting TUE 7/2/24

Reading this Resolution # 41458 I would like to pose a question:

It says that GEW (Green Earthworks Construction, 5001 S. Tyler, Tacoma WA) will be awarded additional funds (from 2.432. million to a cumulative total of 4,616 million) for **"homeless encampment mitigation"**.

Now given the fact that GEC is a construction company that does Excavation, Grading & Sewer projects (UBI 602 576 777, WA UTC ID 40707) I am having a very hard time understanding how this could possibly be connected to do "homeless encampment mitigation" ?

I would very much appreciate an explanation of this. Thank you.

Monika May

PS: don't mind the attached notes - those are solely for my own "back up/back ground information". It's hard enough to find official information once, not to mention trying to find things again!

(research notes)

GEC , primary owner Jayson Stevens, Dept. of Ecology 2019 ref. a sewer permit), also owner/masterbuilder @ Goins Construction Co. & GM at Ferrellgas, Inc.

Goins Construction, Jon M. Goins Sr. registered agent & Governor. UBI 602 596 920 2509 S Cushman, 3/23/2006-03/31/2024. nature of business, construction. According to SoS account delinquent.

From: Jon Luther <jonathanluther@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 5:57 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Support for Multicultural - Resolution 41461

Good evening Councilmembers,

My name is Jon Luther. I want to speak in support of Resolution 41461, support for the Cora Whitley Family Center. I've been fortunate enough to work alongside Multicultural for close to 12 years. Some of the children I've seen in the program come from such disadvantaged backgrounds, presenting some of the most complex needs due to childhood abuse, trauma and neglect. Many of them had burned out of other programs due to behavioral challenges, and had nowhere else to land.

While under Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center's care... there was a transformation I can't describe. It was made possible by genuine care, compassion and dedication. This student became proficient in early literacy, early numeracy, polite, kind and engaged academically. They became kindergartenn ready and life ready. Teachers are more than teachers – they become family for the kids they serve. I've been fortunate enough to see many Tacoma youth who were able to make a 180 degree turnaround. They became happy, content, guided, passionate and focused through Multicultural's early learning program. It's like you would have never otherwise noticed. I've been humbled to see these stories in real time, where a better future becomes a reality for families in Tacoma and beyond.

The Cora Whitley Family Center will house 10% of the City's childcare. More importantly, it will be a place where stories like these will take place for decades to come. Multicultural has my full support and I urge the City of Tacoma to similarly support this transformative effort that will help raise the future of Tacoma.

--

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If the reader of this e-mail is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail or the distribution of contents, information, and numbers contained therein is strictly prohibited and enforceable by Federal Law.

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:43 PM
To: Charter Review
Subject: Tacoma City Charter

I am writing to to give you my opinion on the following

NO ON EXPANDED TERM LIMITS

I propose that the terms for city council members and the mayor should be reduced to.
TWO 3 year terms.

And it's my understanding that the council members and the mayor are considered Independence and they don't have a party affiliation that needs to change

They should declare their party affiliation when running for these positions after all all you have to do is look at the people that are on the council now and who supports them Democrats!

I like the idea of less council members but the problem with that is they get a larger area and then they lose touch with their constituents in my opinion

I do not agree with the idea of sitting up a new type of police accountability with all citizens in it especially if they're appointed because to me then that's just another arm of the mayor or the city council putting people in there that like their ideas it's not truly independent if it cannot be truly independent then it should not be formed

It's kind of like the city Charter review people get drawn out of the voters registration then they should do the same thing with the police accountability keep it out of the politician's hands cuz that's where you're pointing it towards

Fred Dowell
Tacoma

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 9:56 PM
To: Charter Review
Subject: Your list of citizens showing Pros or cons

Please explain to me why I am showing on your list of citizens as a
"p"

Under the mayor council CAO please explain to me what CAO means

I've written twice now and I want it well known that I am. OPPOSED to term limits being expanded.

My position on the council is that the term limits should be REDUCED
to TWO 3 years terms.

And I think reducing the council's number by two could be good if and only if the people are still represented fairly and as
some people in some districts are now not being represented fairly

I looked forward to your reply on Monday

Fred Dowell Tacoma

From: Judith Martin <judithkmartin@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 12:52 PM
To: Charter Review
Cc: Judith Martin
Subject: Term limits for Mayor and City council members

As a longtime taxpaying resident of Tacoma, I'm disappointed in the direction our city government has taken. As the city charter is being reviewed, I would like to voice my concern on the term limits for Mayor, and city council members. I'm against the extension of term limits and would like to see the term limits for all, reduced. If those in the positions do a good job for the citizens of their District, they will be re-elected. Its important for those in City government to remember , you work for the taxpayers of Tacoma.
It is my hope that those working on the Charter review board, keep this in mind.

Kindly,

Judith Martin
Judithkmartin@outlook.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Tony Stefanko <tonystefanko72910@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 10:11 PM
To: Charter Review
Subject: Term limits

Hear me, I said no change to term limits. NO!

From: Michael M <michaelm0415@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 1:41 AM
To: Charter Review
Subject: City Charter review

Some things I'd like to see considered

NO extension of term limits for city council and mayor

YES to two 3 year terms for elected officials

Citizens committee for elected public officials

NO ONE should be nominated to the committee it should be all from voter registration. No one to be appointed by the mayor keep it transparent and non-partisan so that whoever gets appointed by the mayor tries to push their agenda

Charter Review Committee

YES to them being paid something for their volunteerism I suggest that they get paid the minimum wage that's in the city of Tacoma limits at the time the charter review comes up in the future

NO to anyone being nominated by the mayor to serve on the charter Review Committee. All Charter you should be drawn from the voter registration this keeps it transparent

Mike M

From: Natalie Franz <eilatan5445@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 10:54 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Charter Review Recommendations - on the November ballot!

Tacoma deserves better police accountability with an independent oversight commission & oversight powers for CPAC, the Community Police Accountability Commission. And Tacoma residents deserve to live in a city where its governments' decisions are made by people representing them—not by an unelected and unaccountable city manager. **I urge you** to allow the important Charter Review Recommendations onto the November ballot for a vote of the people.

Sincerely,
Natalie Franz
3710 S 11th St, Tacoma, WA 98405

From: twm1301@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 5:14 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: CRC

Several points come to mind when it comes to the Charter Recommendations:

1) No to extended term limits. Just more time to get nothing done. Just look at our most pressing issues - they have been prevalent since 2014 (DEI, Homelessness and such (I can refer to a Resolution where former Mayor Strickland instructed City Manager Pauli to work on those problems; 10 years ago!). We are being taxed on various levels, more Commissions being created and after all those years - where exactly are we? Now I would be very hesitant to believe that those people in charge would be able to accomplish much by merely being on the job longer.

2) Anyone who has a lot of authority in decision making, should be voted into office by us, the people and we should be given background on anyone running for office and not just accept a statement that they write themselves (see the job performance of our City Manager - she got to write that herself.!) All statements should be checked, but according the SOS, even our voters pamphlet are not fact checked. - you could claim you're the 2nd coming, and SOS would print that in the voters pamphlet. That's actually a slap in the face and does not promote any kind of trust that we are getting the truth. It should also be more out in the open and publicized that anyone can check at the PDC (Public Disclosure Commission) on campaign contributions and political affiliation.

3) Why can the City (which, by the way is the only one) not charge impact fees? Oh, no, we need to hire a consultant to figure out how to do that. I am amazed that there is nobody in the planning who could come up with a workable suggestion or two?
The City of Spokane (same size as Tacoma) who has been able to work a plan and has been for years! But no, instead, our Council members have to travel to and fro across the country to compare notes with other municipalities. Why? You have been trying to get something going since 2018. What's the sticking point?

4) Property Tax Exemptions should be halted for a while - let those projects that have already been approved or started continue, then once those come on line, let's take a look and reevaluate. And then, we all know that none of those 20% of the units are hardly affordable to the majority. Not to mention extensions to the exemptions until 2031. There were already 4 projects in 2024 that were granted this extension.

5) Police accountability? Of course, that is a must but also needs to extend to anyone in a position of power and control of the purse strings.

6) Why was the City Manager able to change the TMC regarding the 50 cent limit change to 65 cents for the TFD levy request?
It is amazing how fast this was decided by just one person?. But, then every time the City needs more money, there's always a way for the law/policies to be changes, yet on the other side, when we need to get something done, we are told "we don't have the funds".

We need some serious auditing in this City! Also, I would like to have the Council/Mayor etc. look at the priorities how our tax dollars are spent. Just reading the expenditures on the Contingency Fund. 10K for the Refugee Choir, 10K for phone cards for ICE detainees to phone home, 5K for cultural & economic with our sister city in Morocco, 20K for the P/C Climate Conversation. Are those really priorities? The only expense I would wholeheartedly agree with is the 10K requested by CM Daniels for "raising girls". Now that is something that will benefit many families.

One more thing. I would like for Council Members to stay clear of issuing press releases concerning national and international events. For instance the release regarding the was in Gaza. We do not need to be told how to feel about any certain issue. This City is a melting pot of many nationalities and taking sides in your official capacity is highly

inappropriate.

Thank you for letting me vent.

Monika May
Resident of Tacoma since 1985

From: Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 12:50 AM
To: City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Scott, Jamika; Bushnell, Joe; kdaniels@cityoftacona.org; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Diaz, Olgy
Subject: CRC review

I am writing in regards to some of the things the CRC brought up and that you're reviewing and wanted to give you my thoughts on this.

I am in favor of a strong mayor government instead of the current set up with a strong city manager.

We the people should be able to vote on who's running our city and we don't get that with the city manager position even though all of you have input.

The second issue that I'm in favor of is a full-time City Council as I feel the current situation doesn't address all the needs of our city, especially when the city council has a meeting and it lasts for 90 mins or less and that includes all the proclamations recognitions. (which are too many and then you never even recognized salute to Nurses Week)

But my concern with a full-time city council means that you're going to commit to be in the office 5 days a week, you're not going to be taking days off.

You need to be addressing the issues in the city.

I know many of you have other boards and committees you sit on but some of you don't show up on Tuesdays and that should be the most important day of the week for you to attend.

I am NOT IN FAVOR of extending term limits for elected officials.

Two four year terms is enough!

However I'd like to see you reduce the terms to 2 THREE YEAR TERMS.

Quite frankly many of us taxpayers feel that the city council does not move fast enough on issues in the city and extending term limits will just make it worse in my opinion.

Case in point the city is been talking about impact fees for developers and Builders and yet here we are two to three years later and you've done nothing, even though it was brought up I believe in 2021, as Deputy Mayor Hines mentioned earlier this year.

He mentioned then the cities around Tacoma have impact fees but we don't please tell me why?

Perhaps having a full-time city council would speed up this process. We don't need more Consultants you've got information from before use it and get it in place.

I will be watching the meetings coming up about the CRC and hope to hear some discussion about the term limits.

I know there are other things important like the 350 Tacoma group wanting police accountability Etc, but they did not mention the term limits

But I feel the term limits need to be addressed and be put on the ballot and if necessary have two options leave it at the current two 4 year terms or let us vote on two 3 year terms.

Thank you
Fred Dowell

Tacoma

From: maggie walker <magwalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 10:53 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comments for City Council meeting 6/11

Dear Miss Emery,

I am a constituent and I would like to submit my comments for the council's consideration.

Please approve the Policy Accountability recommendation **as is** without any changes or amendments to the November ballot. We need independent oversight.

Please approve the recommendation to change the form of government away from having a city manager. We need decisions to be made by elected officials so they can be accountable to the voters.

Thank you for your time,
Maggie Walker

4302 S J St
Tacoma, WA 98418

--

Maggie Walker
[they/them](#)
magwalk.me
(401) 714-6314
Tacoma, WA

"Instructions for living a life:

- Pay attention*
 - Be astonished*
 - Tell about it"*
- ~ Mary Oliver*

From: Morgan Vanderpool <morganicmovement@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:21 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Charter Review Recommendations- Council Meeting 6.11.24

Dear City Council- As a 16 year resident and community servant in Tacoma, WA I'm writing with great support of the following wide held requests to be considered & incorporated by the city.

- Approve the Police Accountability recommendation “as is” without any changes/amendments for the November ballot! We need the independent oversight and clear descriptions of powers that would be part of the Office of Policing Accountability and Community Oversight Committee for Policing Accountability, enshrined in law.

- We need decisions being made by *elected* officials, who are accountable to the public. We need more power to be concentrated in the body of the City Council--not one individual. Approve the recommendation to change the form of government away from having city manager!

- Tacoma needs a Climate Commission! The lack of meaningful action since the city's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, and the magnitude of the possible consequences, demonstrates why this needs to be part of the City Charter, not just a resolution or ordinance! Our eco system and our residents are a risk of loss of life or a life lived unwell when our ecosystems & climate is not first and foremost in our governance.

- The Charter Review is an important process for updating the way the city runs, to stay current with our times, address local concerns & needs, & for making Tacoma a better place to live and work. The city charter should no longer just detail the administration and ethics of local government. Experts recommend the charter also speak to the role of public engagement in local governance by elevating the importance of just, inclusive, and equitable public engagement. Voters need to be allowed the chance to decide what belongs in the charter by weighing in on the recommendations that shape our city's future. Some recommendations have clearly garnered a lot of public interest and must be allowed to move forward to the November ballot!

May you hear these requests echoed clearly and collectively in the chambers and in your minds & hearts!

In commitment to the safety, wellbeing & just-longevity of the Tacoma Community,

Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW (they/elle, he/él)

Collective Neuropractor | Speaker | Facilitator | Trainer | Consultant

www.MorganicMovement.com

Instagram: @MorganicMovement

LinkedIn: [Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW](#)



P.S. If a time-bound response is needed, please feel welcome to text me at 253-697-0190, as my email response time can vary.

From: Jay Fish <bartenderfarmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 3:58 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Charter Review Committee Report 24 in 24 for the City of Tacoma Council members
Attachments: ANTHONY_MARTIN_Resume(0).pdf

Dear all City of Tacoma Council members, and the City Mayor and City Clerk;

I Jay Herring whom lives in Council district #4 ie Tacoma Eastside want to thank you for letting my public comment period for June 11th 2024 meeting. The Charter Review Committee report May 3, 2024 both former and current members on this review and updates; are how we the voting citizens can win the future of the City of Tacoma. After reading this amazing City of Tacoma 24 in 24! Charter Review Committee report, I gain clarity. The information was very transparent on how the voting citizens of this great city needs to move forward from the 1953 City Manager way of governing in a City population of more 223,000 people and growing fast. We are no long a Ttown USA but a major city in the State of Washington and the United States of America. I want the City Council to adopt all twenty-four charter amendments not just 6 or 10 of them cherry picked by this Council. So the voting public can obtain some type of equity and hold ourselves and our law makers accountable going forward 2034.

A strong Mayor and Stronger City Council is the only way to hold everyone accountable to the citizens. Neighborhood Councils should have more teeth in their powers to hold our law makers accountable to their needs of there Neighborhood's.

This means City Council and the mayor is full-time employees. I think the Geroge Floyd Policing reform act should be adopted into the Policing Accountability part of this report. If a police officer takes a human life within the City of Tacoma, there need to be a laws in place in this Charter or past by City Council that if the deadly use of force is outside the scope of the Charter or the SOP's of the Police Accountability Commission or Police department or the courts.

The police personnel will forfeit his or her's retirement to pay for the victims family's. Also his or her's Peace Officer Training and Certification will be revoked so this type of officer doesn't get a job in Another City, County in the greater State of Washington.

That's Accountability and Transparency, Equity and Clarity we the voting citizens of this great City called Tacoma.

We must have a real Climate Change Commission that reports to City Council and the Mayor on how we can get Tacoma Public utilities design full on solar and wind power installation to all City of Tacoma buildings. All our citizens hear from the City Manager and City Council we don't have money for this or that in our neighborhood Council meetings. Let's ask the questions that gives us all clarity.

What is the monthly power bill for Tacoma Public Utilities Headquarters, City Hall, Tacoma Dome, Tacoma Police Headquarters, City Community Centers, every Fire station and Maintance building etc. The City of Tacoma can save so much money on our power usage and feed back into our Public grid to lower every power bill. Plus fund other measures with in the 24 in 24! Charter Changes in the committee report of May 3rd 3024.

Please adopt all 24 amendments and give we the people 90 day's to get the signatures to get the Charter changes voting on November 5th 2024 elections. We don't want to hear excuses about timing and money. The voting public can read through the ballot and make the right decision to change and win the future of the City of Tacoma Washington. We are better than 1953 way of governing our City. I hope you agree.

Respectfully

Jay Herring District #4.

Lastly I want to nominate Pastor Tony Martin of the Eastside Community to fill in for Council Member Uska empty seat RIP 🙏. Tony Martin has lived on the district #4 since 1968. I think he would speak for the citizens best in District #4 than anyone could.

The climate commission would have quarterly reports on progress of getting our City act together and create job's for local citizens. I have provided Tony Martin resume below. I have also provided a AP report on Police Accountability in L.A. that we must adopt.

In closing I request all 24 charter amendments in May 2,2024 report be adopted via a vote and let the people of Tacoma have more of a say on issues that really matter.

Sincerely

Jay Herring

[Bartenderfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:bartenderfarmer@gmail.com)

<https://apnews.com/article/mark-fuhrman-decertified-oj-simpson-trial-3e3e691a5c6b5671dd8aedf06b96b444>

From: Michelle Mood <moodm@kenyon.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 4:41 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Walker, Kristina; Woodards, Victoria; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Warren, Bucoda
Subject: Comments for tomorrow's meeting

Hi, Just wanted to let you know that I am a strong supporter of approving the recommendations from the Charter Review that would shift the locus of decision-making to the elected officials of Tacoma. As you know, I have tried to increase the role of the City Council in repairing the negative outcomes from preexisting zoning laws and planning decisions. Some things have definitely changed for the better already, but there are worrying signs that certain decisions happen among unelected staffers who might be operating on business as usual from the last 30 years. We need to freshen things up and air things out and get the public servants' eyes focused on policy, policy implementation, and policy change more fully and effectively. I believe that the City Council know best what is best for Tacoma, and I support the Charter Review's recommendations to move away from a City Manager type of governance we currently have.

I also am excited of the Police Accountability recommendation, as I hope you are too. Let's accept this!

When certain departments make decisions that can overburden already burdened parts of the city, they do so without citizen input, and that can make the City Council and Mayor look bad. I understand that there are some old wounds from interactions with citizens, especially environmental activists, but I also know that Mayor Woodards is a gifted bridge-builder, and I hope that citizen input is increasingly valued. While some citizens may be less than useful partners, there is a rich, untapped group of citizens ready to help with crucial oversight of policy formation and implementation. We've seen that just relying on city staffers is not sufficient -- there are gaps and mistakes. To that end, please honor and include citizens as much as possible. This includes putting this Charter on the ballot as is. Thank you!

-Michelle

Dr. Michelle S. Mood (she, her, hers)
3719 S. Gunnison St
Tacoma, WA 98409

(c) 740-233-6333
Long covid despite vaxxed, boosted, and Paxlovid
#covidsucks

From: Phil Harty <philhartymusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 4:50 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Put Important Charter Review Recommendations Onto the November Ballot

Hello my name is Phil Harty a long time Tacoma resident and concerned citizen. I'm writing to ask that important charter review recommendations be put onto this November's ballot. We need the independent oversight and clear descriptions of powers that would be part of the Office of Policing Accountability and Community Oversight Committee for Policing Accountability, enshrined in law. Therefore approve the Police Accountability recommendation "as is" without any changes or amendments for the November ballot. Also we need decisions being made by elected officials, who are accountable to the public. We need more power to be concentrated in the body of the City Council, not one individual. Approve the recommendation to change the form of government away from having city manager!

The Charter review is an important process for updating the way the city runs, to stay current with our times, address local concerns and needs for making Tacoma a better place to live and work. The city charter should no longer just detail the administration and ethics of local government. Experts according to the National Civic Leagues Model charter recommend the charter also speak to the role of public engagement in local governance by elevating the importance of just, inclusive, and equitable public engagement. Voters need to be allowed the chance to decide what belongs in the charter by weighing in on the recommendations that shape our city's future. The recommendations that have clearly garnered a lot of public interest must be allowed to move forward to the November ballot.

Lastly, running a city is a full time job so approve to make the City Councilmember a full time position, with the ability to ask for support staff. Also Tacoma needs a Climate Commission! The lack of meaningful action since the city's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, and the magnitude of the possible consequences, demonstrates why this needs to be a part of the City Charter, not just a resolution or ordinance. Please approve the update to the Planning Commission to move forward. Expanding the commission allows for more diversity of backgrounds and opinions to be represented. With so many neighborhoods already suffering significant health disparities, it's a bit shameful that public health is not currently an area of expertise sought out for the Commission. The same is true for adding affordable housing as an expertise, as we have had a long standing crisis of homelessness.

Thank you for your time and service to the city. Please listen to the people of Tacoma and put the Charter Review Recommendations onto the November Ballot.

Sincerely,
Phil Harty

From: Cheri Solien <csolien@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:24 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Cc: Hines, John; Walker, Kristina
Subject: Charter Review....I support a City Manager and Police, and NOT taking the Charter to a Vote of the People

Dear City Council,

I am very leery of the recommendations promoted by the citizen's group for the Tacoma Charter Review.

- I support the police. WA State currently has the fewest police officers of any state in the nation. That is why our crime is so high.
- I want to see the City Manager have a say in how the city is run. I do not want radicals running our city. Just take a look at how Seattle City Council has moved back to the middle of the political aisle. I do not want far-left or far-right radicals making political decisions for Tacoma.
 - Portland Oregon is a great example of a city lead and ruined by well-intentioned city leaders who did not know what they were doing, and consequently broke Portland.
- We saw what the outspoken far left did last year with the local Tenant's Bill of Rights.....now we are losing Mom and Pop landlords, and corporate landlords are taking over. I liked the plan the Tacoma City Council had come up with. I supported your efforts.

Tacoma has a POOR Voter Turn-Out, and most likely, poorly informed voters on this type of issue.

Tread carefully on the Charter Review as most residents of Tacoma do not get involved politically. But the far left does get involved and organized, and it DOES NOT represent the politically moderate.

I appreciate a MODERATE political course, tread carefully with the changes you make on the Charter Review.

Regards,
Cheri Solien
West End of Tacoma

From: notification@cityoftacoma.org
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 12:29 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Submit Your Feedback to the Committee 2024-06-21 11:29 AM(PST) Submission Notification

Submit Your Feedback to the Committee 2024-06-21 11:29 AM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/21/2024 12:29:07 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time, L.A.

Name	Value
Name	Steve Williams
Email Address	Prospect2125@aol.com
Subject	Charter Review AND COUNCIL REVIEW OF REVIEW
Message	<p>Good Morning, I have been following the Charter Review Process. I was disappointed in some aspects of the Charter Review Committee process, notably the lack of City support of the Committee and the Chair's conduct. I think both of those contributed to some issues I have with certain of the Recommendations. But those concerns pale a bit next to the City Council 'review' of the Recommendations. It seems to me that the Council is denigrating not only the process and many of the recommendations but also the members of the Committee by its fumbling comments and criticisms, most of which, seem to me, to trace to the Council's own lack of support for the Committee as well as the Council's distaste for any change. I assume this is deliberate and intended to confuse. I wonder why the Council bothers with even considering the Committee's work. And during Council's recent meeting on this subject, we were all condemned to listen not only to racist rants but also to the Chair's demanding first that we all listen to them and second to his lecture about hearing things we don't agree with. Give me a break. Is there no end to his self-righteousness. He has or should have a kill switch and he should have used it. And we should have a process to identify those who made the comments. Free Speech doesn't mean Secret Speech, seems to me. Nor does it mean that anyone has an obligation to listen to it. But I guess that might amount to a change. And the Council doesn't want change.</p>

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/form/one.aspx?objectId=265741&contextId=53725&returnto=submissions>

From: notification@cityoftacoma.org
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 12:32 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Submit Your Feedback to the Committee 2024-06-21 11:32 AM(PST) Submission Notification

Submit Your Feedback to the Committee 2024-06-21 11:32 AM(PST) was submitted by Guest on 6/21/2024 12:32:07 PM (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time, L.A.

Name	Value
Name	Steve Williams
Email Address	Prospect2125@aol.com
Subject	Charter Review AND COUNCIL REVIEW OF REVIEW
Message	<p>Good Morning, I have been following the Charter Review Process. I was disappointed in some aspects of the Charter Review Committee process, notably the lack of City support of the Committee and the Chair's conduct. I think both of those contributed to some issues I have with certain of the Recommendations. But those concerns pale a bit next to the City Council 'review' of the Recommendations. It seems to me that the Council is denigrating not only the process and many of the recommendations but also the members of the Committee by its fumbling comments and criticisms, most of which, seem to me, to trace to the Council's own lack of support for the Committee as well as the Council's distaste for any change. I assume this is deliberate and intended to confuse. I wonder why the Council bothers with even considering the Committee's work. And during Council's recent meeting on this subject, we were all condemned to listen not only to racist rants but also to the Chair's demanding first that we all listen to them and second to his lecture about hearing things we don't agree with. Give me a break. Is there no end to his self-righteousness. He has or should have a kill switch and he should have used it. And we should have a process to identify those who made the comments. Free Speech doesn't mean Secret Speech, seems to me. Nor does it mean that anyone has an obligation to listen to it. But I guess that might amount to a change. And the Council doesn't want change.</p>

To view this form submission online, please follow the link below:

<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/form/one.aspx?objectId=265745&contextId=53725&returnto=submissions>

From: maggie walker <magwalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:39 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Please put the charter review recommendations onto the November Ballot

Dear Nicole Emery,

I am a constituent and I would like to add my voice to the group of many residents advocating for the city council to approve the charter review recommendations *as is* without any changes for the November Ballot. I would particularly like to advocate for approval of the Policy Accountability recommendation created by the Charter Review Committee. I would also like to advocate for creating a Climate Commission, so we can take meaningful action to act on the Climate Emergency that the City of Tacoma declared in 2019.

I would like to thank Councilmembers Olgy Díaz and John Hines for their proposal to form a Mayor-Council form of government. It is a huge step in the right direction from where we are currently. I hope they are open to integrating more of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Maggie Walker
4302 S J St
Tacoma, WA 98418

--

Maggie Walker
[they/them](#)
magwalk.me
(401) 714-6314
Tacoma, WA

"Instructions for living a life:

- Pay attention*
 - Be astonished*
 - Tell about it"*
- ~ Mary Oliver*

From: Morgan Vanderpool <morganicmovement@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:11 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Heartfelt request for the council to put the 2024 Charter Review Recommendations on the November Ballot

With great respect & care,

My name is Morgan Vanderpool, and I've been a resident of Tacoma for 16 years, and of service to some of our most vulnerable residents as a social worker and therapist during that time.

I'm writing with great great hope and heartfelt support for the charter review proposals that are being brought forth to support creating a safer and more equitable Tacoma. Both from the Charter Review Committee & the charter work cultivated by counsel members Olgy Diaz & Dan Hines.

I would like to add my voice to the group of many residents advocating for the City Council to approve the 2024 Charter Review recommendations *as is* without any changes for the November Ballot.

I would particularly like to advocate for:

- The approval of the Office of Policing Accountability recommendation created by the Charter Review Committee.
- The creation a Climate Commission, so we can take meaningful action to act on the Climate Emergency that the City of Tacoma declared in 2019.
- The shift to a Mayor-Council form of Government, and to absolve the position of City Manager.

I would like to thank Council members Olgy Diáz and John Hines for their proposal to back and form a Mayor-Council form of government, and for their support of Policing Accountability. It is a HUGE step in the right direction from where we are currently. I hope they are open to integrating more of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you for your care, consideration & action.

In gratitude & collaboration,

Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW (they/elle, he/él)
Collective Neuropractor | Speaker | Facilitator | Trainer | Consultant
www.MorganicMovement.com
Instagram: @MorganicMovement
LinkedIn: [Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW](#)



P.S. If a time-bound response is needed, please feel welcome to text me at 253-697-0190, as my email response time can vary.

From: maggie walker <magwalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:17 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: Please put the charter review recommendations onto the November Ballot

(Updating this since there was a typo! Apologies!)

Dear Nicole Emery,

I am a constituent and I would like to add my voice to the group of many residents advocating for the city council to approve the charter review recommendations *as is* without any changes for the November Ballot. I would particularly like to advocate for approval of the Policing Accountability recommendation created by the Charter Review Committee. I would also like to advocate for creating a Climate Commission, so we can take meaningful action to act on the Climate Emergency that the City of Tacoma declared in 2019.

I would like to thank Councilmembers Olgy Díaz and John Hines for their proposal to form a Mayor-Council form of government. It is a huge step in the right direction from where we are currently. I hope they are open to integrating more of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Maggie Walker
4302 S J St
Tacoma, WA 98418

On Mon, Jun 24, 2024 at 1:38 PM maggie walker <magwalk@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Nicole Emery,

I am a constituent and I would like to add my voice to the group of many residents advocating for the city council to approve the charter review recommendations *as is* without any changes for the November Ballot. I would particularly like to advocate for approval of the Policy Accountability recommendation created by the Charter Review Committee. I would also like to advocate for creating a Climate Commission, so we can take meaningful action to act on the Climate Emergency that the City of Tacoma declared in 2019.

I would like to thank Councilmembers Olgy Díaz and John Hines for their proposal to form a Mayor-Council form of government. It is a huge step in the right direction from where we are currently. I hope they are open to integrating more of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Maggie Walker
4302 S J St
Tacoma, WA 98418

--

Maggie Walker
[they/them](https://www.theythem.org)
magwalk.me
(401) 714-6314
Tacoma, WA

"Instructions for living a life:

- *Pay attention*
 - *Be astonished*
 - *Tell about it"*
- ~ *Mary Oliver*

From: Anique Zimmer <aniquezimmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:50 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public comment submission for charter review

Hello!

I'm writing to express my support for a number of recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee.

Expanding the planning commission, moving forward with the neighborhood councils and citizen ballots, prohibiting the city from posting competing ballot measures, and increasing the time limit to six months for future charter review committees are great steps for the city towards considering and incorporating the needs of all residents to improving our lives and the city that is our home.

Furthermore, removing the city manager and putting decision-making power into the hands of elected, accountable leadership would also be a huge step in doing just that. City councilmember should also be a full time job, allowing them to put their all into serving the needs of their constituents. More on accountability, the Police Accountability recommendation should stay as-is and preserve the oversight on law enforcement.

As to environmental health and our practical needs, I also support the amendment to specify "internet" as a utility and the creation of a climate commission. Broad access to the internet is now an essential need for many aspects of life, and we should be protecting our own residents access to it as well as shielding the rare and precious resource that is the Click network from private interest. Our local climate and natural resources also need such protection, for our own health and safety if nothing else, and a Climate Commission would help ensure that.

Thank you for your time, I hope to attend tomorrow's meeting!

Cheers,

~ Anique Zimmer

From: Tacoma Business Council <info@tacomabusinesscouncil.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 11:31 AM
To: City Clerk's Office; Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika
Subject: Comments on the Charter Review Committee's 24 Proposed Amendments
Attachments: Tacoma Business Council Comments on the 2024 Charter Amendments.pdf

Good morning,

With this email, the Tacoma Business Council is submitting its written comments on the Charter Review Committee's proposed changes to the Charter. Please see the attached letter. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Kristen Wynne
President
Tacoma Business Council



Jun 30, 2024

Dear Mayor Woodards and Councilmembers,

We write today regarding the proposed amendments to the city's Charter, many of which cause us great concern. The purpose of a municipal charter is to simply lay out the basic structure of our government – similar to the US Constitution. And like the Constitution, it is difficult to amend for a reason. Policy must be left to our elected representatives in the legislative process. That process allows for robust public comment and lengthy consideration of the details of a policy prior to any vote. Because the charter is only amended about once a decade, if at all, it is critical that amendments be narrow in scope, clear a very high bar and not be used to achieve policy goals. Several of the proposed amendments seek to dictate policy for the city via our Charter. We believe this is the wrong approach.

Further, many of the proposals would be very expensive but charter review does not include analysis of the fiscal impact. In contrast, the legislative process includes a rigorous consideration of the fiscal impact of proposals. That is critical for two reasons: (1) we are in a budget deficit and (2) our revenue comes from taxes that most Tacoma residents believe are already too high. The legislative process equips the Council with the ability to consider and weigh competing resource needs across the city when voting on policy direction. For this reason alone, most of the charter amendments should be rejected and handled through the legislative process.

Finally, ordinances (unlike the Charter) can be amended or even repealed soon after passage if it becomes clear that there were unintended consequences or that the policy was simply wrongheaded. As noted, Charter provisions are not easily amended.

Some argue that the Charter review is an "opportunity to fight and win democratic protections needed in our community." Presumably, these unelected individuals view the Charter as a vehicle to affect policy in a way that would bypass the current legislative process. This would not only render our current city government superfluous, it would be fiscally reckless. For reasons outlined above, policy considerations should be handled through the legislative process. Indeed, if the Charter Review Committee believes they need six months to consider proposed amendments, how is the typical busy voter supposed to be able to thoughtfully consider the proposals they put forward in the amount of time voters take to complete their ballot?

For the reasons above, we believe that Council should not send to the ballot any of the proposed amendments that can be addressed in the legislative process. We would like to highlight the following proposed amendments that we consider to be the most troubling:

Section 2.25 - Charter Review. This provision makes clear that the Charter Review Committee views itself as a “super legislative body”. They have approached their task as if it is their opportunity to make fundamental policy changes to the City. This viewpoint is incorrect and dangerous.

While we recognize and appreciate the enormous time and effort devoted by those on the Committee, the Charter Review should not be a process by which unelected individuals bring their policy wishes to the city. It is supposed to be limited to addressing the structure of government. We must keep that process limited and keep policy where it belongs - with our elected representatives on the City Council. For these reasons, we oppose expanding the amount of time for the Charter review process.

Section 2.35 - Term Limits. This amendment would double the length of time that one could serve on Council from 10 years to 20. Incumbents already have a significant advantage when running for office. Reviewing past elections, change in Tacoma’s elected leaders only happens when a council seat is vacated either voluntarily or because of a term limit. Incumbency is a fat thumb on the scale in our elections. Significantly expanding the length of time someone can serve would further exacerbate this problem and would deprive the city of fresh viewpoints and new leadership.

We do think, however, that it is important to fix the problem created by the 10-year limit when a Council person chooses to run for Mayor. We believe strongly that seats on the Council should be filled by an election rather than appointment, whenever possible. The 10-year combined limit far too often causes the need for Council to appoint someone to fill a seat vacated by a mayoral candidate.

TBC’s Suggestion: Change this proposed amendment to limit any person from serving more than two 4-year terms as council members and two 4-year terms as mayor. This would fix the current problem with the 10-year term without allowing one individual to stay on council for up to 20 consecutive years.

New Section 2.XX - Council - Full Time. This amendment would require that members serve full-time, among other things. Seattle is currently the only large city in our state with a full-time council. Tacoma has nowhere near the population or budget of Seattle. If Spokane, Bellevue, and Vancouver can thrive with a part time council, why can’t Tacoma? The proposal for full-time council (and myriad staff) is too expensive. A full-time council is likely to result in the Committee on Compensation recommending a substantial salary increase. We believe we are better served with a part time council as councilmembers with other jobs bring ‘real world’ experience to government, promote public service by discouraging ‘career politicians’ and cost less. We prefer these taxpayer dollars be spent on public safety and public works-two issues that the community repeatedly cites as its top priority.

TBC’s Suggestion: Reject this amendment entirely. If Spokane, Bellevue, and Vancouver can thrive with a part time council, so can Tacoma. We believe these taxpayer dollars will be better spent on public safety and public works, both of which need significant additional investment.

New Section 2.XX - Policing Accountability. This is a solution seeking a problem. There currently exist multiple layers of accountability in policing including:

- **Internal Affairs.** which vigorously investigates and reviews instances of alleged police misconduct to protect the public and our police force from such misconduct.

- The Deadly Force Review Board, made up of 6 voting members including two citizen representatives, which reviews TPD’s investigation of incidents and makes its own determination whether the use of deadly force was within department policy. The Board reports its findings directly to the Chief.
- The Pierce County Force Investigation Team, which also exists to review the use of force. While Tacoma is part of the PCFT, it is prohibited from participating in the review of any incident involving our department. As such this provides a means for an independent review. Community members play a role on PCFI in checking for conflicts of interest.
- The Community Police Advisory Committee, made up of 11 community members – none of whom are police, which conducts its own review of completed internal affairs investigations and advises the City Council, the City Manager and the Chief of Police on police policy and procedures, among other things.
- The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) which is an accreditation agency to which TPD submits to maintain its accreditation. CALEA is the gold standard of professional excellence for public safety agencies. In order to maintain accreditation, TPD must undergo many reviews including self-evaluation, an annual Compliance Service Manager review and an onsite assessment done by CALEA every four years to demonstrate TPD are meeting the high standards of CALEA.
- Civilian Chief of Staff. TPD also recently added a civilian to their top executive team, Michelle Woodrow, who is the Chief of Staff. Having a civilian in the top echelons of the department brings an inherent layer of civilian perspective to all of the department’s operations.
- Body Cameras and Dash Cameras. TPD employs the use of both Body Cameras and Dash Cameras collecting video which is publicly available for review.
- The Judicial System. And, of course, the police department is accountable for criminal activity through our court system.

This Charter amendment appears to be an attempt to create a parallel organization of unelected activists with no expertise in policing to oversee TPD. This would not only be prohibitively expensive it would run afoul of the current collective bargaining agreement and probably the law. Further, it would exacerbate the hiring problems at TPD as many at TPD would view it as another attack on them. This is the Seattle model – anyone paying attention knows that it’s not working for Seattle given their serious problems retaining and hiring police officers.

TBC’s Suggestion: Reject this amendment entirely. Neither put it on the ballot nor implement any of these recommendations by ordinance. While “police accountability” is a popular catchphrase, there already exist multiple layers of accountability for TPD. We believe this proposal would create an *unaffordable* bureaucracy, would impede recruiting at TPD and, if part of our Charter, would tie the hands of the city to make necessary changes in a timely manner.

Proposed new section 3.XX Climate Commission. While there is no question that the city can, should and does implement measures meant to help us do our part on climate, Tacoma has neither the expertise nor the budget to have our own “climate commission.” We have federal and state agencies in charge of these issues. Those agencies are staffed with scientists and have the budgets needed to address these complex and highly technical issues. Furthermore, “climate” is not a regional issue.

TBC’s Suggestion: Reject this amendment entirely. This is an attempt to create an expensive layer of bureaucracy that is neither necessary nor feasible.

Amendment 24 - Form of Government. This proposal does not promote a more representative, transparent, or effective form of government. To the contrary, this proposal would eliminate Tacoma's uniquely representative and democratic form of government where every resident has a majority of the Council representing them and the legislative branch directing all policy and budget priorities of Tacoma. This proposal dilutes legislative accountability and creates a new executive bureaucracy with veto power, creating a form of government with greater administrative power and less transparency. This proposal is being driven, at least in part, by special interests and political ambition. This proposal is further complicated by the unreasonable proposition that the City's form of government be transitioned in a period of less than one year.

TBC's Suggestion: Reject this amendment entirely. This is an attempt by special interest groups to more easily influence policy making and access the operational levers of power within the city. Further, the proposal has not sufficiently demonstrated the need for wholesale change in our city's form of government. Should the council choose to put a form of government amendment on the ballot we believe that significant changes to the CRC's proposal are needed. It must be simplified to provide only the basic structure setting up an executive branch. Additionally, to be a productive model, it must provide clear lines of authority and not set up a system in which the mayor is sharing power with the legislative branch (the Council) as the CRC's version attempts to do. Finally, given the city's inherent budget restraints, Council must keep an eye on reducing the proposed executive bureaucracy.

In closing, we understand and appreciate the enormous amount of time and effort spent by the CRC in crafting these proposed amendments as well as the arduous task facing the council in deliberating them. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Tacoma Business Council, LLC

From: Morgan Vanderpool <morganicmovement@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 12:33 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Soulful request for the council to put the 2024 Charter Review Recommendations on the November Ballot

With great respect & care,

My name is Morgan Vanderpool, and I've been a resident of Tacoma for 16 years, and of service to some of our most vulnerable residents as a social worker and therapist during that time.

I'm writing with great great hope and heartfelt support for the charter review proposals that are being brought forth to support creating a safer and more equitable Tacoma. Both from the Charter Review Committee & the charter work cultivated by counsel members Olgy Diaz & Dan Hines.

I would like to add my voice to the group of many residents advocating for the City Council to approve the 2024 Charter Review recommendations *as is* without any changes for the November Ballot.

I would particularly like to advocate for:

- The approval of the Office of Policing Accountability recommendation created by the Charter Review Committee.
- The creation a Climate Commission, so we can take meaningful action to act on the Climate Emergency that the City of Tacoma declared in 2019.
- The shift to a Mayor-Council form of Government, and to absolve the position of City Manager.

I would like to thank Council members Olgy Diáz and John Hines for their proposal to back and form a Mayor-Council form of government, and for their support of Policing Accountability. It is a HUGE step in the right direction from where we are currently. I hope they are open to integrating more of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

Thank you for your care, consideration & action.

In gratitude & collaboration,

Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW (they/elle, he/él)
Collective Neuropractor | Speaker | Facilitator | Trainer | Consultant
www.MorganicMovement.com
Instagram: @MorganicMovement
LinkedIn: [Morgan Vanderpool, LICSW](#)



P.S. If a time-bound response is needed, please feel welcome to text me at 253-697-0190, as my email response time can vary.

From: Jason Gauthier <jasongauthiercrc2024@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:11 PM
To: Daniels, Kiara; victoria.woodards@cityoftacoma.org; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Bushnell, Joe; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina
Cc: City Clerk's Office
Subject: COMMENT - Public Hearing - 2024 Charter Amendments

Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines, and members of the Tacoma City Council,

Unfortunately, I'm unable to deliver this comment in-person as a part of the Charter Review public hearing due to a prior commitment but I did want to share my comments - which hopefully don't read as too scattered.

First, I'd like to again thank Councilmember Daniels for providing me the opportunity to serve on the 2024 Charter Review Committee ("CRC"). This was a unique opportunity to serve my adopted community and I hope my bit of service will be of benefit to current and future community members.

I'd like to thank the Council for your commitment to considering the CRC's recommendations. You have invested dozens of hours, both in your public meetings and in your private time, reviewing our work and you should be recognized for your considerable investment of time and energy in this process.

As a member of the CRC, I endeavored to provide the Council with a throughout review of our municipal charter to find opportunities for charter clarity and to better support our government's operation, as well as support CRC member ideas that deserved the public consideration of Council.

I am fully supportive of the work produced by the CRC and believe Council's work to consider each amendment recommendation has provided a great example of how the public process should work.

The public process is one of learning and refinement. CRC members did not enter the review process as experts on municipal government operations, or voter engagement, or the best reporting structure for a City Attorney, but did work hard to understand the best practices for each of the CRC's amendments.

After our learning, we provided Council with recommendations for refinement and that refinement - as with all commission or committee recommendations, at all levels of government - should be expected to include some amount of policy rejection.

The CRC's recommendations were delivered for serious consideration, not simply your consent.

I look forward to considering the amendments that Council's moves to the ballot this Fall and appreciate your consideration of each.

Jason Gauthier