

**From:** Andrea Reay <andrear@tacomachamber.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 11:58 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Scott, Jamika; Walker, Kristina; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** FOG Letter  
**Attachments:** City of Tacoma Study Session FOG Charter 7.5.2024.pdf

Honorable Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines and Distinguished Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter outlining our position on putting a **change to our form of government** on the ballot in November. We implore you to **not do so** at this time.

We appreciate the conversations and engagement on FOG and hope to continue to do so. We understand that political pressure is high to place this item on the ballot and we encourage you to weigh the political pressure with the political courage we need you to have and to do the right thing for Tacoma.

Changing our form of government will not be the panacea many hope it will be and it will not make our community more equitable, inclusive, or thriving.

**We stand ready to support and solution find to tackle the real issue at play in our community-that of a loss of faith and trust in our government.** Changing our form of government will not increase faith and trust, it will create more chaos with more polarization and politicization of day-to-day operations, and less representation for community members.

Please find a letter attached in advance of your study session on Tuesday and vote at Council. Please also feel free to contact me and again, **thank you for your service.**

Best,  
Andrea

**Andrea H. Reay, IOM**

**President & CEO**, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber

**Direct:** (253) 682-1736

Making the South Sound the Most Equitable, Inclusive,  
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## TACOMA - PIERCE COUNTY CHAMBER



July 5, 2024

Tacoma City Council  
City of Tacoma  
747 Market St  
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: Proposed Charter Amendment-Form of Government

Honorable Mayor Woodards and Tacoma City Council Members,

I was honored to serve on the Charter Review Committee with 14 other dedicated Tacoma residents, all of whom share our collective civic responsibility to ensure our government is effective, efficient, transparent and accountable to all our citizens. We also share a passion and dedication to ensure that our city's future continues to be more equitable, inclusive, and thriving.

As the Council moves forward with final recommendations to the Charter, I am writing to express specific concerns on what has historically been one of the most contentious issues discussed, and what has continued to be this cycle, that of our form of government.

The Chamber opposes changing our form of government. We oppose this predominately because we know from looking at other neighboring cities, from reviewing best practice and recommendations from non-partisan organizations like the National Civic League, and from our own collective civic history. Changing our form of government fundamentally undermines the power of the people in our local democracy, discounts and discourages equitable economic development, and over-politicizes public policy, as well as the day-to-day operations of the city, creating more polarization in our community.

In the 1950's, our city faced a number of challenges related to graft and corruption, and determined the best way to daylight and ensure the atrocities of our past are not repeated, was to move to our current form of government. Why would we want to take our city back to a time when redlining, organized crime, widespread vice, and official corruption were the norm? We need progress. We want to move forward, not back.

We need to find a way to engender more trust and faith in our local government and the Chamber is committed to partnering and collaborating with our community members and policy makers to find new ways to educate, inform, and engage all residents in Tacoma. We believe we can do that with more robust and intentional communication, outreach, and by fully empowering our council members to have the time, tools, and resources necessary to do their best work. Changing our form of government will *not* increase faith, trust, efficiency, transparency or accountability, and will in fact have the unintended consequence of creating more barriers to



access and engagement, especially for those most historically disenfranchised in our communities.

We would like to encourage the council and our community to continue to improve policies and procedures and provide opportunities for robust engagement while preserving what is internationally recognized as the best form of government: our current form of government, the council/manager form of government.

We look forward to being a partner in solution finding, and we thank the council and Charter Review Committee for their comprehensive review and study.

We have an opportunity to continue to lead in Tacoma, to be true to our unique identity that reflects our community. To maintain and continue to improve what we know works and not give in to failed policies from other jurisdictions. We can and need to do better, our community is depending on us to get this right. Let's get this right by focusing on what we know is best policy, what the standard of best practice is, and not undermine the integrity of our electoral system by placing items on the ballot that we know are not what's best for Tacoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea H. Reay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" being the most prominent.

**Andrea H. Reay**

President & CEO, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber

950 Pacific Ave, Suite 300, Tacoma, WA 98402

(253) 627-2175

[AndreaR@TacomaChamber.org](mailto:AndreaR@TacomaChamber.org)

**From:** Rosemary Powers <rpowers@eou.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 6, 2024 1:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Email from Charter Review Website --copy of public testimony on July 2,2024  
**Attachments:** Powers testimony League of Women Voters 7.2.24.docx

Dear Tacoma City Clerk

I am attaching my complete comment from the July 2 Public Hearing on the Charter Review which was only partially presented. I apologize for the delay and hope this can still be part of the record.

Thank you

--

Rosemary F. Powers  
President, Tacoma-Pierce County League of Women Voters  
621 Tacoma Ave. South, Suite 202  
Tacoma,, WA 98402  
(541) 805.0848

Date: July 2, 2024

To: Tacoma City Council

From: Rosemary Powers, President, League of Women Voters Tacoma-Pierce County

Re: Charter Review Committee proposal on changes to form of government

Good afternoon. My name is Rosemary Powers, and I speak today as President of the League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County. I focus my comments on the proposal to change Tacoma's form of government to a mayor/council form.

As a non-partisan "good government" organization, the league was deeply involved beginning in the 1950's in promoting the change from a mayor form to a council/city manager form. At the time, this was proposed as a way to increase accountability and transparency and to limit the then very real corruption and favoritism in city government. The league continues to support this form of government for Tacoma today.

Major controversies and strong public opposition to city leaders' decisions are not necessarily related to the form of government, though many comments urging change in Tacoma argue that the current form places too much power in an unelected city manager. The balance of power among elected leaders and appointed administrators must always be honestly examined. Importantly, elected policy makers must have access to the depth of information that will make deeper debate, greater transparency, and fully-examined decisions possible. The League supports a strong council. I speak in favor of proposed changes that will increase the council's paid time and the independent staff support needed to navigate multiple and often conflicting perspectives on our common life.

The league position concurs with the dissenting position of the charter review committee on the proposed change to form of government. I know you have read this already, but I repeat this to emphasize why the League supports our current form of government:

- *"This proposal is not a step forward in promoting a representative, accountable, transparent, or effective form of government (FOG).*
- *This proposal eliminates Tacoma's uniquely representative and democratic FOG where every resident has a majority of Council representing them, and the legislative branch directing all policy and budget priorities of Tacoma.*
- *This proposal dilutes legislative accountability and builds a new executive bureaucracy with veto authority, creating a FOG with both even greater administrative power and less transparency, more vulnerable to the acts of special interests and political ambition.*
- *This proposal ignores the operational, institutional, and legislative reality of city government, presenting an unreasonable FOG transition period of less than one year."*

I conclude, as the dissenting position does, by urging Council not to refer this proposal to voters, but *"to take a significantly more active and public role in policymaking, budgeting, and oversight of the City Manager, and invest in the time and staffing necessary to take this more active and public role in building a better Tacoma.*" (CRC final report, 2024, p.66).

**From:** Asha Bhaga <asha@ashabconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 8:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Council meeting written comment 7/9/24

My name is Asha and I live in District 4, currently without council representation. This is in part why I am sharing written comments.

First, I ask that the council allow all 24 Charter Review Committee (CRC) recommendations to be on the ballot in November. The CRC spent over 130+ hours researching and drafting the recommendations on behalf of the people of Tacoma and it should be taken seriously. I strongly support the council-mayor recommendation which would also serve to give more power to the mayor and less power to the City Manager. I am deeply disappointed to see the mega warehouse being built on an aquifer in a community like mine (Eastside); this should not happen in Tacoma. I also support the committee's recommendation on police accountability and the sale of waterfront property (not to be sold to the city/Port of Tacoma).

Thank you,  
Asha

**From:** Hunter George <hunterg@tacomaparks.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 8:30 AM  
**To:** Woodards, Victoria; City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Tim Reid; Aaron Pointer; Matthew Mauer; Rosie Ayala; Shon Sylvia; Jennifer Bowman; Andrea Smith  
**Subject:** Park Board letter re: waterfront property charter amendment  
**Attachments:** Pres Smith letter to City Council re Charter Review 7.5.24.pdf

Honorable Mayor Woodards and City Councilmembers (Bcc'ed),

Attached is a letter from Park Board President Andrea Smith regarding the amendment proposal for Charter section 9.1 (waterfront property). Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Hunter

**Hunter T. George**  
**Policy & Government Relations Officer**  
Office of the Executive Director  
Mobile (253) 686-9553  
4702 S. 19th St.  
Tacoma, WA, 98405



[website](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#) | [tiktok](#)

*Metro Parks Tacoma acknowledges that we operate on the traditional homelands of Coast Salish tribes, who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial and continue to do so today.*



July 5, 2024

Mayor Victoria Woodards  
All Members of the Tacoma City Council  
C/O City of Tacoma  
747 Market St.  
Tacoma, WA 98402

RE: City Charter section 9.1

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Councilmembers,

Thank you for considering the proposed amendment to Charter section 9.1, regarding the potential disposition of City-owned waterfront property. On behalf of Metro Parks Tacoma, I write to ask that you send the proposal to the ballot as sponsored and amended by Councilmember Rumbaugh.

In the century since Tacoma voters established the metropolitan park district, the City has had opportunities to acquire various parcels that have been operated as parks or open space. The City and Metro Parks have a longstanding master Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and numerous site-specific agreements (MOUs) in which the City pays the Park District to operate certain parks and facilities. This includes City-owned parcels along the Ruston Way waterfront. In other words, visitors to the waterfront see signage for Metro Parks and may not realize the landowner is actually the City.

For many years, the City Council and Board of Park commissioners have shared a goal of eventually transferring ownership of City-owned properties to Metro Parks. Under this concept, which we refer to as "One Park System" – there would be a consistent level of service across all parks in Tacoma. Some transfers have occurred, such as the recent transfer of Catherine Ushka's Gas Station Park.

Section 9.1 of the Tacoma City Charter governs the disposition of waterfront property. The Park District respectfully asks the City Council to refer the most recent version to the Nov. 5 ballot. The amended version reads:

The City ~~shall never may~~ authorize the sale or disposition of any waterfront property belonging to the City **solely to public agencies for the guaranteed purpose of perpetual public ownership and public access, to be used for park purposes, park structures, or open**

Board of Park Commissioners: [Rosie Ayala](#) | [Matthew Mauer](#) | [Aaron Pointer](#) | [Tim Reid](#) | [Andrea Smith](#)  
Executive Director: [Shon Sylvia](#)

4702 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Tacoma WA 98405-1175 | (253) 305-1000 | FAX (253) 759-9286 | [MetroParksTacoma.org](https://www.metroparkstacoma.org)

space in perpetuity and, subject to the provisions of state law, the City shall not lease waterfront property for a period longer than seventy-five years at any one time.

Metro Parks is fully committed to preserving waterfront land for the purposes stated in the amendment. The Park District believes this change would enable the eventual realization of the “One Park System” goal of aligning ownership and maintenance while honoring the underlying intent of this Charter provision to protect public access to the waterfront.

We know you have many Charter amendments to consider, and we appreciate your consideration of the Park District’s request.

Thank you,



Andrea Smith  
President, Board of Park Commissioners

Cc:

Tim Reid, Board Clerk  
Commissioner Matthew Mauer  
Commissioner Aaron Pointer  
Commissioner Rosie Ayala  
Shon Sylvia, Executive Director  
Hunter George, Government Relations Officer

**From:** Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 7, 2024 5:13 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; Scott, Jamika; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Bushnell, Joe  
**Subject:** District 4 nominees

Dear Tacoma council members

I am writing to voice my displeasure and disappointment with how this nomination process has been going for the council District 4 replacement.

I have searched on the city of Tacoma Facebook page which is my primary source for information

I have yet to see any post by your staff on who the people are that have been nominated for this position to be interviewed.

Quite frankly I'm disappointed.

Is there a reason why there hasn't been the list of names and their qualifications that they listed when they applied for this?

Where's the transparency from the city council and mayor's office for this position?

I tried to see the story on the News Tribune but it is blocked. The Tacoma Weekly has nothing as well.

Finally I just don't see why Rick Talbert was allowed to apply for this if he was late and getting his application in.

Nobody else was late and the excuse of having troubles? I'm sorry I don't believe it and again this whole process seems to smell because people are allowed to come in to the process after the deadline.

I don't think that would happen with other people that didn't have Rick Talberts background.

I also wonder how is he going to be able to attend Council meetings and study sessions when he is a full-time employee as a deputy auditor with the state of Washington? Perhaps you can't answer that question but I'd sure like to hear what Rick Talbert has to say. We already have enough council members that don't show up for study sessions and Council meetings for whatever reason and we don't need another one doing the same we need someone that's going to be at our meetings weekly!

I look forward to replies from any and all of you who the list of candidates are and their backgrounds and who nominated them for the final round?

I look forward to your prompt replies.

I will be sharing your answers on social media as well. Again I don't think this whole process has been transparent enough for the citizens of Tacoma.

Fred Dowell  
Tacoma

**From:** twm1301@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 11:30 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Bushnell, Joe; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; kdaniels@cityoftacona.org; Diaz, Olgy; Scott, Jamika  
**Subject:** Comments regarding Rick Talbert's late application

Esteemed Mayor & Council Members:

Again, I feel compelled to make remarks regarding the selection of Mr. Talbert as finalist to be City Council Member for District 4 until 12/31/2025

I have read the interviews published regarding this issue.

CM Hines quoted as saying " Mr. Talbert intended to file before application closed, but had encountered technical difficulties".

My questions here would be:

1) why wait to the last minute to file at all? We all deal with deadlines in our lives.

2) We all have technical difficulties at times with computers, but, a person that had held several high profile positions, I should think

he would be able to figure this out, or, perhaps go to a friends/colleagues house and use their equipment? Call the Mayor ? After all, she encouraged him to throw his hat in the rink.

Mr. Talbert stated in the article "he heard from former constituents who wanted him to apply and talked with Mayor Woodards who encouraged him too."

Does that mean he only put his name in because others wanted him to? Wasn't it because of his own conviction and desire to serve?.

The official rules for selection calls for 4 finalists (20% of the total number of applicants). Mayor Woodards suspended the rules and asked Council Members to name 5 finalists.

So it seems that boat has sailed and those 6 will have their final interview on Tuesday 7/9/24. I wonder if this will be behind closed doors in Executive Session?

Either way, looks like the deck has been stacked, rules suspended and tweaked as needed, so we'll just move on. Not much we, the Citizens, can do about this. Frankly, I am very much disappointed in this entire process from the start. We were never told who those 23 people are - only a list of names, but nothing stating any work/professional experience/accomplishments.

which would qualify them to assume such a role in City Government.

In closing, let me say thank you to Council Members Diaz, Daniels and Scott for taking a stand and object to the process.

Respectfully,  
Monika May  
39 year South Tacoma resident

**From:** Jennifer Lacy <jennifer.lacy1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 2:52 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item 24-0724 - Charter Amendment Review

Dear Mayor Woodards and City Councilmembers,

I have followed the city charter review closely. I have listened to CRC sessions, attended several information sessions, and listened to many City Council study sessions regarding the CRC Recommendations.

I am concerned with how Tacoma residents, your constituents, have been characterized during these conversations. The lack of confidence in our ability to decipher information on the ballot feels like an excuse to avoid bringing issues directly to the people. Additionally, I heard a council member speak condescendingly about the number of recommendations during a business district meeting. This attitude is disrespectful, not only to the people of Tacoma but also to the time and effort the CRC invested in drafting these recommendations.

The public has been in the council chambers literally screaming for change in the way Tacoma is governed. If these issues are not brought to the people to decide, it will be evident that this process was merely performative and not genuinely concerned with the desires of those most affected by the decisions of an unelected City Manager. Place your trust in us as we place our trust in you when we cast our votes for your leadership.

I implore you to allow the capable people of Tacoma have a choice.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Lacy

**From:** Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 2:43 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** Woodards, Victoria; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Bushnell, Joe; Daniels, Kiara; Diaz, Olgy; Walker, Kristina  
**Subject:** Opposition to Rick Talbert

Follow up  
Completed

Many residents are finding it very disturbing that Rick Talbert was not only allowed a late application, but that he was then within the top-five for the Mayor and a number of other Council members.

This all appears highly questionable, especially for an applicant with such a dislikable history.

Here are a just a few recent comments being posted on social media by a variety of people:

Incredible to hear that Rick Talbert has been resurrected and apparently is being slid through the approval process for vacant Position #4 (despite his application being late – after deadline... so it should have been rejected).

For those who don't know, Rick was deeply involved in welcoming of both the Northwest Detention Center (as it was then known) and the Point Ruston albatross. He was one of the rudest and most dismissive of councilmembers, actually walking out of a study session in 2004 during presentations by residents (bringing forward all the concerns which have since come to pass), just one example of his many distasteful stances.

He does not represent the kind of new thinking this Council needs... yet he is, apparently, who the Mayor wants.

A few items from 20 years ago – this is where our City Council will be headed if they bring Talbert on, is going backwards in thinking instead of forward [see Tacomic cartoon from about 20 years ago, and an account of the study session, from TNT, below].

Quote from TNT story:

*Dawe and Tim Smith, a member of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee of Tacoma, were invited to the council's study session by Councilman Bill Evans, who called their presentation "an eye-opener."*

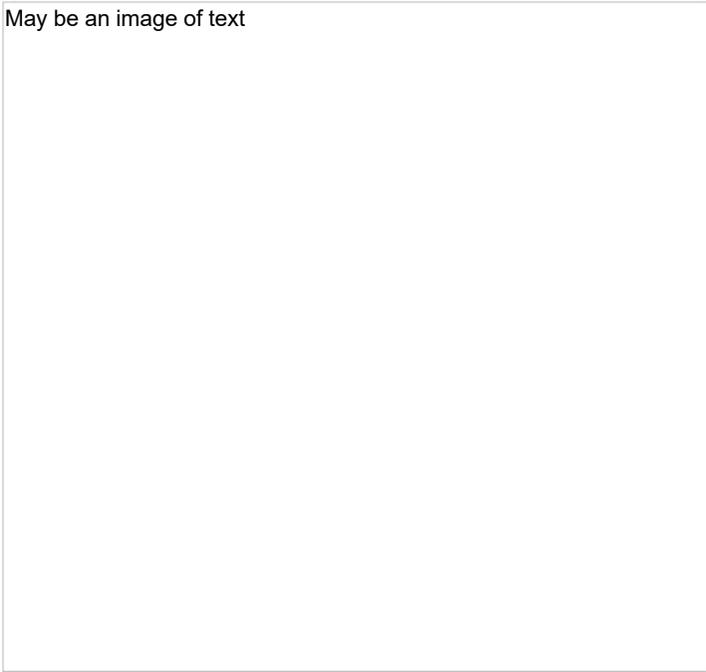
*Councilman Mike Lonergan, Phelps, and Talbert walked out and left the meeting, complaining that no representatives of the federal government, Correctional Services Corp. or the police and fire departments were invited to take part. Councilman Rick Talbert called it "one side of the story." ~*

*[End quote]*

(But, up until then, the City had only been allowing the other side of the story, of course!)

Talbert is the worst kind of "representative", being slipped-in now probably for strategic votes likely already well-planned-out by the City, then slinking away, again with no accountability of the disasters we're being left with.

May be an image of text



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Those on the council are

or should be aware of all this. Yet they violate their own rules. Dirty politicking is always disturbing, not matter how often these neo liberals play trick\$.

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This whole process has been so disturbing. First five members of the Council (not Diaz, Daniels, or Scott) allow the late-filing Talbert to be considered and then five of eight put him in their top five! And then the Council suspends another rule to allow two applicants with lower vote totals get interviews!

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... it feels so preset.  
The 5 already well know who they want on the council and just make the community members jump through hoops and waste time.

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Talbert was also supporting, that hideous Methanol refinery, insisting northwest innovation works shroud be allowed to 'finish' the reviews, even though the company had produced so few details and missed the deadline (!) that even the port commissioners said it was failing. With interim regs being decided this term, we already know where Talbert stands - toxic!

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NW detention center history. Take a look back as both Talbert and Loneragan want more political power again. <https://ia902708.us.archive.org/.../ice%20news%20zine.pdf>

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Rick Talbert endorsed  
republican Shawn Bunny for county executive. Bunny now makes about  
\$100,000/year lobbying for massive suburban subdivisions cut out of the forests  
like Tehaleh. <https://youtu.be/m2vfGPlcmfM>

[You Tube - Right Wing  
Corporate Greed, Rick Talbert]

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The biggest donors in  
his last campaign? The dentition center lobby, Sarah Rumbauh, the 27LD,  
Lockheed Martin (purveyors of weapons of mass destruction), Norm Dicks, Rainier  
Connect who was handed our public utility Click!, John McCarthy, Loren Cohen of  
the now deeply indebted Point Ruston.... You see where this is headed. <https://www.pdc.wa.gov/.../candidates/4253/contributions>

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... and you have no doubt seen this (not a good look at all):

**Controversy as Tacoma  
council narrows candidates**

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/controversy-tacoma-council-narrows-candidates-190628872.html>

[Controversy as Tacoma council narrows  
candidates to replace the late Catherine Ushka](https://ca.news.yahoo.com/controversy-tacoma-council-narrows-candidates-190628872.html)

Leaders were divided during Tuesday's meeting on whether to allow a late applicant submission: former City Council member Rick Talbert.

ca.news.yahoo.com

Please take into consideration all of the above concerns, and respect the residents of District 4 for a better choice of representation ~ thank you!

**From:** Jay Fish <bartenderfarmer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 10:07 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Written Comment

I'm Jay Herring Tacoma District #4 resident whom, like to give public comment for the Charter Review Committee report adoption process. City Council and the Mayor 6 total Charter changes out of 24 Charter Review Committee report changes is a F grade on any level. It also a slap in the face to Black People whom live in Tacoma District #4 that Police Accountability and Reform Commission was not part of your choices to upgrade the City of Tacoma Charter amendments upgrades. Sounds like the elected officials are scared of the Tacoma Police union. That should not be that way. Please give the Citizens of Tacoma the opportunity to vote on Police Accountability Commission and Reform, Strong Mayor, Stronger City Council and eliminate the 1952 Jim Crow, Voter Suppression type of Government in a City Manager form of rule. I think the suggested financial view of all Charter Review amendments is a joke on so many levels. I think we need to have Financial audits on all power usage/ bills monthly in all City buildings. That would include all new construction  projects like what is going on at City Hall now. Making sure that all City buildings have solar panels and windmills to lower the building or structures feed back into Tacoma Public utilities grid so it lowers all our power usage and cost. You can take that cost savings to pay for Police Accountability and all the other 24 amendments that were in the Charter Review Committee report. I also wanted to say the residents of Tacoma need a full 90 day's to get a significant signatures for a citizens initiatives in time for November 5th 2024 elections. It's shameful to have to wait until 2034 before we can update our City Charter we deserve in our great City. We are better than this. We can all read through all 24 amendments on a ballot no problem. Lastly alot of People of color are asking you to appoint Silong Chhun for the rest of Council Member Uska empty seat. RIP. Silong Chhun gives us true representation as we all know his family history is Tacoma District #4 is in his DNA. We need a strong leader and Silong Chhun is the best for us.

Sincerely  
Jay Herring

**From:** Cathie Raine <cjrrd@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** City Council meeting (7/9/24)

These comments are submitted for the 'Community Forum' part of the July 9th City Council meeting

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Dear Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Hines and City Council Members,

I find the process that has been used by 'some,' of the Council members to determine the District 4 Council candidates to be disappointing and unfair. Rules for the Council candidates application submissions were clear and to include ALL candidates! Now..after 20 applicants have successfully submitted applications for this District 4 Council member position, it is unfair to include/choose a 'late' applicant for this finalist position. If I were one of those 20 applicants, I would feel that the Council members' use of '2 different sets of rules' as being both disrespectful and unethical.

Would CM Catherine Ushka want this type of process being used to choose her replacement to represent District 4?

Also, Rick Talbert's comments (regarding some of the Council members excusing his 'late entry' status) shows a total lack of character and respect for the other 20 candidates! He should know better by this point in his political career!

Also..are any of the current Council members checking in with the District 4 residents prior to choosing the next Council member?

Cathie (Raine) Urwin

**From:** Ellen Floyd <edsf@harbornet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 3:16 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Charter Review and Diaz-Hines Proposal

July 8, 2024

To: Tacoma Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Indivisible Tacoma  
Subject: Diaz-Hines Form of Government proposal and Charter Review Commission recommendations

City Council Members and Mayor Want to Serve the Public:

We believe the Mayor and City Council Members are highly capable people of good will who want to serve the public in their leadership capacity. This is demonstrated by, for example, your proclamations and resolutions regarding human rights and climate concerns. However, the City's current council-manager form of government has inherently undemocratic and opaque features, which create an impediment to the Council's good-faith intentions, resolutions, and ordinances. You, our *elected* representatives, including the Mayor, have little time and few independent resources with which to consider alternatives to the recommendations of the *unelected* City Manager. The Mayor and Council Members have no express investigative powers or independent legal advisor. And voters have no way of removing unelected, unaccountable City Manager.

Indivisible Tacoma is part of an effective national good government movement to elect responsible/ responsive leaders for Democracy, Earth, and Social Justice. We have been one of many groups expressing concerns over the last eight years about the City Manager's and her administrators' support for a number of harmful decisions and projects impacting and endangering the residents of Tacoma, Pierce County, and beyond, including, to name just two, the construction and operation of the LNG facility without a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) using current scientific data and the City's permitting the mega-warehouse, which is being built with an impermeable surface over a super-fund site and aquifer, without requiring even an initial EIS.

Form of Government as Impediment to Responding to Public Concerns: These projects have gone forward even though a large contingent of the public expressed strong objections in person and in writing to the City Council and its regional partners in numerous hearings and meetings -- and in spite of testimony and documentation of experts, including from state agencies and offices, based on current scientific and other appropriate data. This lack of responsiveness and accountability has resulted in the development of multiple groups and organizations criticizing and challenging these decisions. Several lawsuits and administrative actions against the City have attempted to bring about investigations, interventions, and enforcement of state environmental regulations. These legal proceedings, in turn, have proved costly for the City and its taxpayers.

Gratitude and Support for Diaz-Hines FOG: The voters of Tacoma deserve the opportunity to choose a more responsive and accountable *elected* City executive, which the mayor-council form of government offers. Therefore, we want to express our immense gratitude to Council Members Olgy Diaz and John Hines who have courageously stepped up to sponsor a proposed mayor-council charter amendment to make the Tacoma government's decision-making more transparent and responsive to residents - in short, to make it more democratic and representative of the public interest. We also appreciate the outreach by several other City Council members to members of the community regarding this proposed amendment and others recommended by the Charter Review Committee (CRC).

After studying the Diaz-Hines proposal, attending meetings examining CRC recommendations, and the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, and discussing our own observations and direct experiences with Tacoma City Government over the last eight years, Indivisible Tacoma strongly urges that the Diaz-Hines Version 24C, dated July 5, 2024, be

placed on the November ballot for a vote of Tacoma citizens. We urge all City Council members and Mayor to step forward and support this democratic proposal. We especially support the recommendations that would:

- *Eliminate the unelected, unaccountable* City Manager position
- *Replace it with an elected, accountable* executive Mayor position
- *Transform the Council into a separate legislative branch* to balance the executive mayoral branch
- Change our current one-branch 9-member Council (5 district/3 at-large /1 mayor) into a *separate* 9-member *legislative* Council branch (5 district/4 at-large)
- The mayoral slot in our current Council-Manager form of government (FOG) would become the 9<sup>th</sup> council position/4<sup>th</sup> at-large position
- Create TWO branches of government – executive and legislative *-instead of just one as we now have*
- Take effect in January 2026 following the November 2025 election of the first executive Mayor and first separate-branch 9-member Council
- Make Council Members officially full-time
- Allow the Council to hire its own *independent* staff (for example, policy analyst, legislative aide, chief of staff, legal advisor, and outside counsel).

We further strongly **support including within the Diaz-Hines 24C proposal these additional recommended charter amendments from the CRC report to the November ballot:**

- Require the Council to jointly select the City Attorney and require Council approval to terminate the City Attorney
- Empower the Council to have investigative powers including subpoena power over City operations
- Require confirmation of all Department Heads by the Council
- Include a Climate Accountability and Sustainability Commission with specific requirements, experience, and expertise for Commission members
- Create a Police Accountability Office and enhance the oversight authority of CPAC
- Allow Council Members to make direct inquiries of staff about any topic

We strongly recommend **retaining** the following provisions of the City Charter:

- Ensuring that Council Members and the Mayor can serve no more than two 4-year terms, respectively.
- Prohibiting the sale or disposition of waterfront property belonging to the City.

It is clear to us that this change in Form of Government will provide the necessary conditions for our elected City leaders to more effectively respond to the needs of their constituents. Indivisible Tacoma urges the inclusion of these proposed amendments to the Tacoma City Charter on the November ballot.

Sincerely,

Ellen Floyd and Julie Andrzejewski, Co-Chairs  
253-651-8399 and 507-469-2072

Indivisible Tacoma

**From:** Shawna Pederson <sammieannsmom2005@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 12:33 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Logo/City Council

First, I'd like to ask that a copy of this email be given to the Mayor and ALL City Council members. Thank you.  
I would like to voice my opinion on the new City of Tacoma's logo. I feel that it looks hideous and does not represent our City at all. I am appalled that the residents of this City weren't given any opportunity to be a part of the decision to change the logo. Most of us don't like the new logo at all. Why aren't our voices being heard? And how much did all of this cost ? Surely, it was our money that paid for it or at least for a part of it. So shouldn't we have been a part of this decision ? Why do you all continue to make decisions like this without including us ? I want answers. Don't continue to ignore the people who are paying your wages. Thank you for your prompt reply in advance.

Shawn M. Pederson

**From:** Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Scott, Jamika; Walker, Kristina; Bushnell, Joe; kdaniels@cityoftacona.org; Diaz, Olgy  
**Subject:** New Tacoma Logo

This is my reply to the letter that Amy Clancy communication director sent me after I wrote a letter to all of you last week. She's the only one that replied to me because someone forwarded it to her and I appreciate that.

However if you haven't followed the city of Tacoma Facebook page that put the post up about this new logo you need to go look at it.

Read the comments on that post currently.  
there's 247 comments over 95% of them are not in favor of getting a new logo they're happy with the one we've had for the last four years

Does that send a message to you with the city that the citizens and taxpayers say this is not warranted?

Ms Clancy said it was her decision to make the change and I respectfully disagree along with the other 240 plus citizens in the city.

My friend just saw the story on the News Tribune page this morning and he is posted it on social media app Next Door as many people do not have Facebook

While it was nice to see that Miss Clancy stated that it was done in-house by the graphic artist designer and another staff member it is the opinion of many people that this is a waste of money to be doing this at this time when there's other pressing matters in this city that need to be addressed.

I respectfully request that the city put a hold on this new logo this is something that the citizens are pretty upset about and I think it's time to put a stop to it.

Just because they're going to redesign the city's web page doesn't mean they need to have a new logo my personal opinion is the logo we've had in place for the last 4 years is classic and it does not need to be changed

I look forward to hearing replies from the city council members that I have put on this letter and whatever information I get from any and all of you I will share it on social media just so you know

My friend has also put on on social media next door to write the city clerk and have it forwarded to your offices as well

Fred Dowell  
Tacoma

**From:** Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2024 9:54 AM  
**To:** Hines, John; Diaz, Olgy; City Clerk's Office; Walker, Kristina; Daniels, Kiara; Bushnell, Joe; Rumbaugh, Sarah; matt.driscoll@thenewstribune.com  
**Subject:** New city of Tacoma logo update

In case you haven't noticed almost 300 people have made comments on your city of Tacoma Facebook page about the new logo and a high percentage of them are negative about the new logo and quite a few wondering why did it need to be changed

I did receive an email from Amy Clancy stating that it was her idea to resign us cuz it was the right time and I it was them unable to reply to her but I will say this this is not the right time it's a waste of money and we don't need a new logo just like many of the people on the Facebook comments have said

In addition to the comments on Facebook on social media next door someone posted your Facebook page and over 1900 people have viewed it and there's about 30 comments saying it's not really necessary

I did receive an email from councilmember Rumbaugh  
That you do have other air things that you're working on right now including the CRC home of Tacoma too Etc

But I hope you office and the city manager would ask that the implementation of this new logo stops until the council can look at it and determine if it's really necessary and not just let Amy Clancy decide that "It's the right time". Frankly I don't see that it is the right time

JUNE 20, 2024

TO: Mayor Woodcock, City Manager Paulie,  
City Attorney Broche, & all Members of  
Tacoma City Council

Re: Proposal for Initiative to Reach  
The State's 2035 Vehicle Goal for City of Tacoma

FACT 1: 90% of U.S. residents are subject  
to breathing unhealthy AIR.

FACT 2: Americans lose 3 yrs of residual  
lifespan due to this air pollution!

FACT 3: Vehicle emissions - sources are  
responsible for 75% of this air pollution.

Now that we know what the problem is,  
what are the solutions? The above are  
science based studies.

1. The City of Tacoma should adopt a  
5 yr plan to make the city's fleet  
100% electric, this could be phased in  
at 20% per year - with priority to  
heavy use vehicles - such as police patrol  
cars.

CONT PAGE 2

2. A "VEHICLE POLLUTION MITIGATION FEE (TAX)" should be imposed with every vehicle license tab. As all pollution is not equal - it should be based on the engine CC's at the rate of 10¢ per CC of engine displacement. A 3 cylinder engine does not pollute as a 8 cylinder engine - it should be based on the pollution produced. Proceed would be set aside and dedicated to vehicle electrification programs. Exemption for EV. vehicles!

3. Some of the worst polluter comes from DIESEL 18 wheelers delivering trucks. Most of these are transitory - so as to not let them get away with polluting a 10.00 "VEHICLE DOCKING FEE" should be charged with every delivery. Exemption for those that have made the switch to electric or some fleets have - this will speed up the process of conversion.

4. As revenues from these fees build, the City of Goeno should offer a \$1,000.00 downpayment assistance to those buying a EV. as many states & companies have!

Sincerely, Michele Reich

JULY 4, 2024

To: Mayor Knowledge, City Manager Pauli,  
City Attorney Boche, & all Members of Tacoma  
City Council

Ref: Electric Vehicle Transition Since 2035  
& 2045 "Zero Emission" Mandate

Previously, I brought to your attention,  
actual health / lifespan decline of 3 yrs.  
due to air pollution, vehicle emissions,  
is responsible for "two year - three months"  
of this decline! To address this "public  
health" issue is what my proposals are  
about - climate concerns are secondary.

Upon reflection, I propose a simplified  
way to calculate a "Emission Mitigation Fee"  
for vehicles based on cylinders not C/P of  
displacement. Example, a four cylinder car  
would have to pay \$40. yearly on tabs a  
eight cylinder would be \$80. yearly on tabs.

This fee would be dedicated to E.V. transition,  
City's fleet, charging stations in public, down  
payment assistance for E.V. purchase by Tacoma RESIDENTS.  
E.V. is the future for the 21st Century! The  
technology has arrived!

Sincerely, Michelle Peisk

JULY 4, 2024

## Ordinances

1. Tacoma Public Utilities needs to assess its future electric grid capacity for the coming E.V. Age. This is a concern worldwide.
2. Priority for fleet conversion should be given to public transportation, school buses, and police vehicles. Natural gas buses should be phased-out in favor of electric.
3. Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (N.E.V.s) which are vehicles of up to 40 MPH should be permitted by a new City Ordinance on all local city streets where under 40 MPH or less. NEV's are for local use only and have been permitted worldwide in cities nationally. The advantage is that they are a half to a third less expensive than regular E.V.'s and are ideal for someone that commutes locally.
4. Hybrid vehicles, although I don't know their status with the state's 2035 mandate should be charged a vehicle emissions fee at 5% of internal combustion engines (ICE's) as they still emit polluted air.

Michele Reich

**From:** Fred Dowell <freddowell54@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2024 11:18 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office; Hines, John; Rumbaugh, Sarah; Walker, Kristina; Scott, Jamika; Daniels, Kiara; Bushnell, Joe; Diaz, Olgy  
**Subject:** New art murals in Tacoma

I recently saw post on social media that your artist in Residence with Environmental Services has completed two art murals in downtown Tacoma?

I believe the locations were 9th and Pacific and 9th and "A" streets

Yet I have seen no pictures posted on social media including the city of Tacoma Facebook page of these two murals and I'm curious why we haven't seen pictures posted by the city since we the taxpayers are paying for this artwork?

Not everyone can hop in the car and drive down and check out this artwork and I think it's the duty of the city Tacoma to post this somewhere on social media so we the taxpayers can do it thank you

**From:** Daren Holter <darenholter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 6:31 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Citizens Forum  
**Attachments:** Council Presentations with Supporting Documents 7.9.2024.docx

Please include my presentation for today's City Council meeting.

Daren H. Holter

July 9, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Continuing the discussion of the Tacoma Police Harrison Shooting Range I have provided to you and the citizens of Tacoma the documents that have proven the range soil is contaminated with lead and other heavy metals. All test reports were performed before the start of drainage improvements work being done by a private contractor. Once the contractor had completed the necessary excavation work, the contaminated soil was dumped in the upper range area and placed on top of the required containment and covered as per state regulations. When work at the range was completed, the City was left with this enormous pile of contaminated soil. As time went on the containment barriers and the cover placed over the soil errored. During periods of heavy rainfall, this allowed contaminated soil to leave the upper range and head down McMurray Road and entered the storm water system and then into the adjacent waterway. Months later, Street Operations employees were tasked with removing the contaminated soil. Once most of the soil was removed the remaining contaminated soil was spread around the upper range area. Satellite view of the upper range provide the documented evidence that the containment boom and cover placed over the stockpile of material failed and additional satellite view shows the direction of flow of rain water leaving the site containing contaminated material. The City of Tacoma has never been held responsible for the high amount of soil contamination and the discharge of contaminated soil entering the storm water system.

Daren H. Holter

Daren H. Holter  
1823 S Visscher St  
Tacoma WA 98465  
253-677-0800  
[darenholter@gmail.com](mailto:darenholter@gmail.com)

Attachments: Satellite views of upper range X4



Before drainage improvement work was to start.



Above failed containment. Second pic show darker soil (Contaminated Soil) Spread in locations of upper range area.



During heavy rainfall rainwater runs off the hillside across the road and enters the storm water system and discharges into the Hylebos Waterway and into the Puget Sound.

**From:** Heidi S. <heidigs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public Comments / Charter Amendments Review

Public Comments for July 9, 2024  
Re: Charter Amendments Review

### Charter Proposal C4B: Disposition of Waterfront Property

Please reject this amendment.

This issue had been discussed thoroughly among the Charter Review Committee and had been soundly voted down to NOT move forward, so it is extremely disturbing to see it so casually resurrected again here, but without any of the committee's concerning discoveries noted.

There are reasons the review committee upheld the current language stating:

The City **shall never** authorize the sale or disposition of any waterfront property...

After that Charter Review meeting, Hunter George gave the Metro Parks Board an update revealing that they (Metro Parks, themselves) had written the proposal to CRC (creating it years before, with the plan to have it pushed-through at CRC) and (despite that it was voted down in CRC) they stated their full intention to take it directly to City Council and, in fact, he said they were "already in communication with certain City Council members about it" which we now, sadly, see was so.

Please don't be misled by this poorly thought-through proposal.

Even a city attorney had commented that, once sold, there is never a guarantee of "perpetuity" and selling to a "public agency" doesn't mean only Metro Parks, but could also mean possibly the Dept. of Transportation or Port of Tacoma, etc. which would be terrible to lose control of our waterfront to.

In recent years we've seen a disturbing trend to transfer-away, sell or contract-out far too many of our City properties and services (rapid trend in Tacoma of turning-over street right-of-ways, discounts and tax breaks to for-profit businesses, sale of numerous property plots and rail, seemingly anything pro-development), as well as misuse of Metro Park land.

That's why I am concerned this will unintentionally open the door to this eventually losing public ownership or even just public access, as is currently happening at park land in South Tacoma!

If the intent is to sell to Metro Parks, then specify only "Metro Parks", except, again, I don't trust that even they won't be able to circumvent this Charter or have it be one step closer to weakening later.

If the desire is for this land to be better used, there are ways to address this other than having the property leave city ownership (which selling to Metro Parks would do), so this is a section of the charter where I agree with the current verbiage stating "shall never" sell...

Instead, this section of the Charter should be strengthened, taking into consideration the comments/concerns made by Charter Committee members.

Suggested change:

Disposition of City Property  
Section 9.1

...

The City shall never authorize the sale or disposition of any waterfront property belonging to the City and, subject to the provisions of state law, shall not lease waterfront property for a period longer than seventy-**five years** at any one time. All conveyances, contracts for sale of land owned by the City, and leases of such land for a term of longer than one year, including any renewal options, shall be executed by the Mayor and attested by the City Clerk., **and sale of any city land must be by a vote of the people.**

(Change lease term to "five years" and add statement at end. for all the reasons previously mentioned.)

Please leave the charter to say "shall never" sell, and simply have the land be managed by Metro Parks as we do elsewhere (worth the cost) to absolutely prevent loss of public waterfront.

### **Recommendation 19: Ranked Choice Voting**

Please change the term from rank choice voting to **instant** run off voting (which would correct the error of the previously attempted county RCV system, plus IRV is less expensive, faster and more accurate to calculate which is what the community is actually requesting).

### **Recommendation 6, Neighborhood Councils**

The descent opinion, written by one person, seems clear that they haven't lived in Tacoma long, are not involved in NCs and don't understand that although these roles require voluntary time, these are ELECTED positions voted on by the community.

On the night the Charter Commission reviewed this topic, one of the other members commented that this is exactly the kind of item which they should be considering and precisely the kind of item added to the charter they were appointed to do.

So the one decenter wanting to defer to ordinance is what was used undo the advisory role this is now meant to restore.

Adding to the charter for requiring the ordinance to return to previous and improved language would cost nearly nothing.

So I object to the fiscal note which seems completely contrived, since those costs were never part of what the Charter Review Committee nor the Neighborhood Councils had asked for.

The city already has a NC Coordinator; there's no need (nor request) for additional city positions or any other concocted costs -or- if it is desired for NCs to have that amount of more funding, then commit to put that toward actual annual money distributed to the NCs.

Either way, please correct or remove that fiscal statement which appear as a way for the City to interfere with intent, are unnecessary and seems meant to only dissuade the public's approval.

### **Recommendation 15, TPU Internet as Utility**

In recent years we've seen a disturbing trend to transfer-away, sell or contract-out far too many of our City properties and services.

So, I support Recommendation 15, ensuring that affordable, reliable internet is a guaranteed part of TPU / public ownership again

Please move all of the Charter Review Committee's other amendments forward for public vote, as that Committee had written them

Thank you,  
Heidi Stephens