

Proposed Rental Housing Code changes: What do we like, or not?
Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 3.10.23

Haiku and Tanka for Harriet Tubman

1
Picture a woman
riding thunder on
the legs of slavery ...

2
Picture her kissing
our spines saying *no* to
the eyes of slavery ...

3
Picture her rotating
the earth into a shape
of lives becoming ...

4
Picture her leaning
into the eyes of our
birth clouds ...

5
Picture this woman
saying *no* to the constant
yes of slavery ...

6
Picture a woman
jumping rivers her
legs inhaling moons ...

7
Picture her ripe
with seasons of
legs ... running ...

8
Picture her tasting
the secret corners
of woods ...

9
Picture her saying:
*You have within you the strength,
the patience, and the passion
to reach for the stars,
to change the world ...*

10
Imagine her words:
*Every great dream begins
with a dreamer ...*

11
Imagine her saying:
*I freed a thousand slaves,
could have freed
a thousand more if they
only knew they were slaves ...*

— Sonia Sanchez, *Poetry*, April 2018

Text of full poem: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/146231/haiku-and-tanka-for-harriet-tubman>

“I could not move, because history had me glued to the seat. . . It felt like Sojourner Truth’s hands were pushing me down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman’s hands were pushing me down on another shoulder, and I could not move. — Claudette Colvin, Montgomery, AL, 1955

WOOT: *To everyone that signs in “Pro” on HB1784, the Early Action Food Package:*
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Testifier/Add?chamber=Senate&mId=31013&aid=153411&callId=22114&tId=3>

We like this ...

- Support for Tacoma4All proposals.
- Nothing to really be concerned about on proposed changes.
- Not exactly ambitious, but at least it’s achievable.
- Additional eviction restrictions. Caps on rent increases.
- Landlords having continuing education minimums around laws around landlords.
- The idea of shared housing, but unofficial shared housing (private subletting) is risky for renters and landlords alike.
- Excited about cap on screening criteria because some companies are requiring 700+ credit scores.
- Rent ratio and credit rating requirements need to be made more attainable.

We wonder about these things ...

- Homeless should have 60 days’ notice too.
- Why haven’t our tax dollars taken care of the homelessness issue and housing instability?
- Rent increase notice increases make it easier and more profitable to evict someone and set rent to whatever than to incrementally raise rent while keeping someone housed.
- Policy does nothing to help housing availability, just slows down the inevitable. Policy proposals do nothing to increase availability for residents below 50% AMI.
- Feedback into this process is throttled. There is no dialog, just “Do you like this? Yes or No?”
- Some concern about impact of cracking down on underground rentals.

We could do without ...

- 100% rent increases are ridiculous.
- State laws placing limits on what is possible
- Rental restrictions making it harder for renters to provide housing.
- Shared housing rules aimed at taking away housing, not making more housing available.

And we said this ...

- Talking about the rapid rises in rents we agreed that it’s time for revolution. “There’s nothing fair about the rate and speed of rent increases.”

- MLK's "Beware of gradualism" was quoted: "This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off, or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism."
- These proposals are the kind of thing that give incrementalism a bad name.
- COT has a relocation fund. People who are pushed out of a rentals for long periods of time are not able to relocate causing people to leave the state.
- Housing providers are very organized. Tenants are not speaking out to council members and decision makers as often as housing providers.

Notes and Resources List

University of Washington - Tacoma student Faith Rasmussen (she/her) is seeking letters of partnership for a project proposal to the UW Osheroff Grant to fund a mutual aid outreach project with the award of \$4,000. This application is due on March 18th, 2023. She may be reached at faithrasmussen1397@gmail.com.

2023 Partnership Summit for leaders of organizations that serve residents of East Pierce County (e.g.- food insecurity, homelessness, health care, etc.). Wednesday from 7:30 - 1:00 in Puyallup. Further details <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-partnership-summit-tickets-523156433977> More info: Rich Berghammer, (253) 831-1807 MinistryCounseling@comcast.net

2023 Opioid Summit, March 23, 8:30 am – 1 pm, Pioneer Park Pavilion, 330 S. Meridian, Puyallup, WA 98371 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-opioid-summit-tickets-559948640457>

ORDER COVID TEST KITS while you still can, they are good to have on hand: State program ends 5/11 and eligibility changes on 3/13. Order here: <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>. Order from the Feds here: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Homeless Memorial Service, March 26, 5 pm, Shiloh Baptist Church.

Tacoma Rental Housing Code website, with a link to the survey. If you are neither a tenant nor a landlord, please feel free to fill out the survey as an advocate for either of these groups. <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode> Outreach events for community feedback on Tacoma housing code changes. In person event for housing providers, real estate professionals, renters, and housing advocates. Thursday March 23rd from 5:30-7pm at TPU; Virtual Event for Housing Providers, Wednesday, March 29th, Two sessions: 12-1:30pm, 5:30-7pm; Virtual Event for Renters & Housing Advocates, Thursday, March 30th, 5:30-7pm. Access Event Information and zoom links: www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode

Free Food and Resources, Saturday 10~12 everyone welcome no requirements or ID needed you can pick up for others 4819 S 12 st Tacoma Greater Heights Church across from Delong Elementary School

At Food is Free we do a weekly food rescue on Tuesday mornings at 11 am at The Hope Point Church, 6511 S C St., Tacoma 98408. If you need fresh produce for outreach please come see us. It goes in a couple of hours so please come before we open at 11.

Nourish Pierce County has an upcoming fundraiser in May. <https://nourishpc.org/events/>

Ocean5 has a free family bingo night (if looking to have fun and do some good) where the last two games you can buy in and half the pot goes to Harbor Hope Center, offering youth services in Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor. <https://o5social.com/specials/>

FOB Hope is having a fundraiser on April 1st at the Puyallup Elks Lodge. Dinner, stand-up comedy show, silent auction. Cost is \$15 for dinner and show. Time-5pm-9pm. If you need more information or want to donate to the silent auction, or reserve a table for your group, you can contact me at tammyc@fobhope.org Hope to see you there.

The Salvation Army women's program is having a High Tea and Purse Auction fundraiser on Saturday, 3/18. See Facebook page for more information.

Laurie Davenport's homeless art work entitled *The Unseen* is on display at Marlene's Deli. Go look.

Mayor Victoria Woodards to Present 2023 State of the City Address at Mount Tahoma High School on March 16

https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in_the_news/state_of_the_city_2023

COVID vaccine event at Shiloh Baptist Church shelter: 3/18/23 11a-3p at 1211 I Street. Ask me or Susan Ahearn at Valeo if you have questions.

The Test and Go kiosk info: current site is 21818 38th Ave. E. in Spanaway. We anticipate two more locations will be available on 3/16/23: (1) Spanaway United Methodist Church, 135 163rd Street South, Spanaway WA, 98387 and (2) Resurrection Lutheran Church, 4301 Browns Point Blvd. Tacoma WA, 98422.

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at
<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Winter '22 Emergency Outreach Tracking Googledoc

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5lfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing

We have inclement weather cards (printed on business card sized stock) that Laurie Davenport created. Let me know if you want any. tpdrutis@nctacoma.org