



## Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

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Mayor Victoria Woodards  
Members of Tacoma City Council

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, have reviewed the proposed Home In Tacoma and have had opportunities to respond to presentations to the Coalition by City staff. We know that Home In Tacoma will not of itself create the thousands of housing units we need affordable to people living at 0-30% of Area Median Income.

We also know that only housing ends homelessness. We simply have to have more housing units in Tacoma and we want them to make good use of all of our land. We want a variety of types of housing and a variety of both ownership and rental opportunities. We want public investments to secure land and housing on into the future. We agree that some housing should build generational wealth but public investment should also build community wealth. We want people to have security of tenure. We want them to remain in their housing as long as possible and when they leave one home, they go seamlessly to another.

We are all weary of people completely without shelter but those most weary are those without a safe and decent and permanent place to live. Those without any place to live.

We all understand the importance and impact of stable and appropriate housing to every stage of development - to every child, every parent, every elder, every youth. We have learned through the actions of the City of Seattle during the pandemic that people experiencing homelessness can move from encampments and from congregate shelters to hotels. There is no substitute for a room of one's own. Not for the addict. Not for those with medical needs. Not for those who speak with people we cannot see. Not for the lonely. Not for the student. Not for the woman who goes to work from her car. Not for those who age and then die preventable deaths years before those of us who are housed.

You have an opportunity to take the leadership for which voters elected you. Through all of the conversations about technical changes and timing and stages of implementation and the transparency of decision-making the community rightly demands, we want you to remember one thing: We want everyone to have a home.

To help make that happen, we, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, endorse Home In Tacoma.

Sincerely,

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