

*"The People Against Ordinance 28756"*

Statement by The People's Assembly - released April 19, 2021

On Tuesday April 20th, the city council will present [Ordinance 28756](#) which legally bans "unauthorized camping and storage of personal property" within any public property. The ordinance illegalizes, penalizes, and charges a fine to unhoused people for existing in public space and gives full authority of enforcement to Tacoma Police.

[Ordinance 28756](#), shamefully sponsored by Mayor Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor Keith Blocker, and Councilmember Robert Thoms, in the middle of a pandemic effectively:

- 1) criminalizes homelessness;
- 2) punishes unhoused people, a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, and/or living with chronic health conditions, for surviving in the face of city-driven gentrification and displacement;
- 3) emboldens and empowers policing in the face of a growing movement of the people calling for defunding and abolition of the white supremacist and violent institution of policing;
- 4) violates orders by the CDC and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to not disperse encampments (unless safe and alternative housing can be identified for evicted residents — housing which we know does not currently exist in this city) and;
- 5) most of all, violates the ethical codes of morality which call on the preservation of dignity of human existence in public space over the "protection" of public property.

We call for housing, justice, and humanization. We demand that the mayor and city council:

- 1) Drop this cruel ordinance
- 2) Cease any and all planned sweeps or evictions of unhoused residents
- 3) End the criminalization of homelessness
- 4) Invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice

**[Protest Rally 4/20 at 4:30pm on the front steps of Tacoma City Hall:](#)**

Join us on the City council building steps at 747 Market St. tomorrow, Tuesday 4/20 at 4:30pm to protest this ordinance! Masks are required (one will be provided to you if needed) and physical distancing will be encouraged as well. Accessibility and safety info: Sidewalk leading to front entrance of Tacoma City Hall is accessible by ramp and is relatively flat. Questions? Email [thepeoplesassembly253@gmail.com](mailto:thepeoplesassembly253@gmail.com)

**More Action Items:**

-Call into the [city council meeting tomorrow](#) at 5pm and speak out against this ordinance during the public comment period. Comments can also be submitted to [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org) on Tuesday before 4pm.

-Join in effort with Tacoma Housing Now, Tacoma Democratic Socialists of America, Sunrise Tacoma, and Our Revolution Pierce County who will be leading community encampments in solidarity with our unhoused neighbors, in protest of this ordinance. More info at [tachousing@gmail.com](mailto:tachousing@gmail.com).

-Don't let up! Flood the phone lines and inboxes today, tomorrow, and every day and demand that the mayor and city councilmembers drop this cruel ordinance and to invest in efforts led by community members directly experiencing or affected by homelessness in developing true and equitable solutions for housing and economic justice! City council directory [here](#).