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*Meetings held monthly*  
6PM, first Mondays  
Trimble Hall  
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December 7, 2017

To: Current and Future City Council Members, Mayor Strickland, incoming Mayor Woodards, and City Manager Pauli  
CC: Community Council of Tacoma  
Re: Neighborhood Outreach / Citizens Forum

Dear City Leaders,

I am writing on behalf of the North End Neighborhood Council. The NENC has voted unanimously to encourage you to reject Resolution 39882, which amends the Council Rules of Procedure and suspends the monthly Citizens Forum.

Although there certainly are evenings where the monthly forum loses some measure of civility, there are certainly ways to keep the Forum and manage citizen comments. By suspending the Forum, the City Council will be diminishing citizens' opportunity to petition the City for change.

Although many members of the NENC are engaged members of Tacoma's citizenry and are not hesitant about reaching out to the city's leaders to achieve what they want, there is value in public comment. Recently, for instance, the NENC presented an actual petition to the Council having to do with the Cushman Substation. Because that petition could be presented publicly and not just across an email contact, there's wider transparency in what everyone is working to achieve. By suspending the Forum, the City Council will be diminishing citizens' opportunity to petition and will be removing what is arguably the most direct means for residents to communicate publicly with Tacoma's leadership.

Many municipalities and councils offer an opportunity for public comment not just once a month, but at every meeting. Please reject Resolution 39882.

Sincerely,

Kyle Price  
NENC Chair, on behalf of the NENC