

June 14, 2006

Don Ramsdell, Chief
Tacoma Police Department
3701 South Pine Street
Tacoma, WA 98409

RE: Tacoma Needle Exchange

Dear Chief Ramsdell:

The downtown core of this city is changing for the better. The presence of the needle van appears incongruent with the city's renaissance of building projects and its attendant vibrant and exciting changes in living and working environments. This is a crime and safety issue within our neighborhood that needs to be addressed.

The New Tacoma Neighborhood Council (NTNC) board members are comprised of business owners, residents, professionals, and volunteers in Tacoma. During discussion on this topic it was acknowledged that the Needle Exchange has transformed AIDS prevention and has proven to be an effective tool in the HIV/AIDS prevention program. The NTNC is not opposed to the continuation of the program, but feels a different approach to distribution should be incorporated into its future operation.

The NTNC opposes the current model of curbside needle exchange in Tacoma. We feel the health department needs to find an alternative solution to this dilemma.

Respectfully,

Bill Garl, Chair
New Tacoma Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 1784
Tacoma, WA 98401

cc: Lieutenant Corey Darlington
Officer Greg Hopkins