

Maureen's Resignation
Notes for Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness
Oct. 29, 2021

I came to this Coalition in the wake of the Tiki Apartments - looking for a fiscal sponsor because I thought a tenant organizing group would emerge. I stayed with the Coalition because of the incredible positive energy of the breadth of people in the room.

I told you that first day that I was a liberation theologian - that I believed our resources belonged first to the poorest among us. Over time I tried to show you that ordinary people - housed or unhoused - could and must help shape public policy. You gave me an increasing amount of your time together to do just that. It's been an honor.

Now, for reasons both personal and professional, I need to change my role. Effective Monday, Nov. 1, I'm resigning my volunteer position as your Senior Policy Analyst.

I want to be really clear - I am NOT leaving the Coalition and I am NOT leaving the work. If anything, I hope to be a more radical and forceful voice - I believe homelessness is a structural issue that plays out in individual pain and community conflict. I believe housing ends homelessness.

I'll continue to represent the Coalition in those arenas where you want me to do so - like the Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, the Dept of Health Vaccine Incentive grant - those \$50 cash cards are doing what didn't seem possible - getting people living unsheltered vaccinated against COVID, the PC Dept of Emergency Management committee working on including a response to unsheltered people in their Emergency Management Plan. Perhaps others as time goes on.

I'll continue to bring you policy and advocacy and emerging issues that I think you should know and maybe act on. I'll continue to share anything I know and do anything I can to move the cause of ending homelessness forward. I'll report in any way you want. Like anyone on the listserv, I'll use it when it seems appropriate.

We'll keep my email live for now - just change the signature. And the phone numbers remain - they are my own.

I'll update the Coalition's Steering Committee on each of the projects I'm carrying and they'll decide what to do next with each one. I hope that my stepping aside will make space for some of you to step forward.

As for me, I hope to have some time to reflect and think and write and engage in some special projects.

I plan to make as much "good trouble" as possible and I invite you to come along with me.

It really has been my honor to do this work in this way with you.

Thank you.