

## **Social Justice Page - Update**

### **News on Additional Resources to Address Homelessness:**

Tacoma City Council passed the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% sales tax that will go for low-income housing! Celebrate! Now to get it passed by the County Council too as homelessness and housing shortages are everywhere, not just in Tacoma.

*Please consider addressing the Pierce County Council on this issue or contact your representative of your district: [Pierce County Council | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)*

### **Support Equitable Access to Covid Vaccines & PPE:**

The health response to this global pandemic we call COVID-19 must NOT be an opportunity for profiteering. This is a time in human history where we must transcend the individual and seek the common good and health of all.

Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) is a legal mechanism to protect the assets of corporations from being exploited for profit by others. This is understandable, to a degree, in normal times, but NOT when the health and wellbeing of the entire Human Family is threatened by disease!

One Hundred members of the World Health Organization are supporting a temporary suspension of TRIPS until the COVID Pandemic is over. Materials and formularies that can be used in the manufacturing, distribution of effective vaccines need to be shared by all. Supplies for needed Personal Protective Equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the administration of vaccines must be available and affordable for all nations.

A conclusion from a report entitled WTO COVID-19 TRIPS waiver proposal (WTO COVID-19 TRIPS Waiver Proposal: Myths, realities and an opportunity for governments to protect access to medical tools in a pandemic | Médecins Sans Frontières Access Campaign (msfaccess.org))

“Governments need to be in the driver’s seat and fulfil their core obligations of protecting public health and ensuring access to medicines for all, including in the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 TRIPS waiver as proposed appropriately addresses the legal barriers to maximizing production and supply of medical products needed for COVID-19 treatment and prevention. It is limited in time and the scope of application to cover COVID-19-related technologies during the pandemic. Countries that consider the waiver unnecessary for their national context can choose not to use it once granted without blocking the consensus process at WTO.”

Contact the Biden Administration and your Senators and ask them to support this temporary TRIPS Waiver Supported by the World Health Organization.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/> and <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm?State=WA>

**Environmental Justice: April Unit Meetings: Environmental Justice in the Neighborhoods – April Virtual Meetings:**

The League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County will offer zoom meetings open to the public on the topic of Environmental Justice in the Neighborhoods. Three identical meetings are presented for the convenience of the community.

Also, you can go to for more information or to register go to:

<http://tacomapiercelwv.org/calendar.html>

**St. Leo Emergency Services March 2021 Budget Report:**

**Income:**

Parish Donations - \$3,599.50

**Expenses:**

Rental Assistance - \$1,239.90

Utilities - \$1,050.50

Transit - \$ 208.00

Prescription assist/medical - \$ 318.67

Work/Ed Assist - \$ 100.00

DOL - \$ 55.62

Total Expense - \$2,972.69

**Monthly Balance - \$ 626.81**

Total face to face client contacts for March was: 53.

As of April 1, our balance for Emergency Services is \$ 7,799.84 (This is a corrected balance for Emergency Services that includes the balance of funds on the program's debit card).

We also have an additional \$2,700.00 that remains earmarked for continued assistance for Puerto Rico. The Social Justice Commission along with Staff are investigating the most judicious use of these funds in direct assistance to the people of Puerto Rico.