



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

July 20, 2023

Dear Tacoma Audubon Society Board Members,

I am writing to you today ahead of your board meeting to express my support for your conversations to explore a new name for the Tacoma Audubon Society. This is a hard conversation to have, and I commend your courage in addressing this challenge. While the National Audubon Society kept their name, I am proud that Tacoma is joining other local chapters in considering equity and the impacts of keeping the name or changing it.

The Audubon Society was named after a man who was an enslaver with racist views toward Black and Indigenous people and supported policies and practices that do not align with who we are as a City. As we tear down tributes like these that glorify racism and hate, it is my hope that our organizations will change similarly in a way which reflects our shared values.

The Tacoma community – past and present – is full of strong leaders who have made significant contributions to conservation in our community, and there may be opportunity to recognize these leaders in your name changing conversations.

I look forward to your conversations and process and share my support to your board as you take on these conversations. I appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to the process your board has set in motion and to the outcomes of these important conversations.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Victoria Woodards