

Tacoma, Washington
June 5, 1973

Mr. Gordon Johnston, Mayor,
930 So. Tacoma Ave.
Tacoma, Wash. 98402

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I am enclosing a sketch of the finished beautiful Broadway Mall that appeared in our News Tribune.

I was appalled to see these pigeons in the picture, as that is the last thing we want more of in our City. Our entire City is over run now with what is commonly being called, "Rats of the Air!" For years these Wild and homeless pigeons have made nesting places inside of our old buildings in the City with openings of broken windows and on the tops of roof drains, causing untold damage. I personally have had a new hat ruined and saw a child have her lovely new white suit ruined at Easter time as we came out from the Restaurant entrance and at which time they had started tearing down the buildings below 11th Street for the Escalators. I have encountered many residents who had clothes ruined also and property, to say nothing about the hours for many years spent washing steps, walks, windows and ruined roofing.

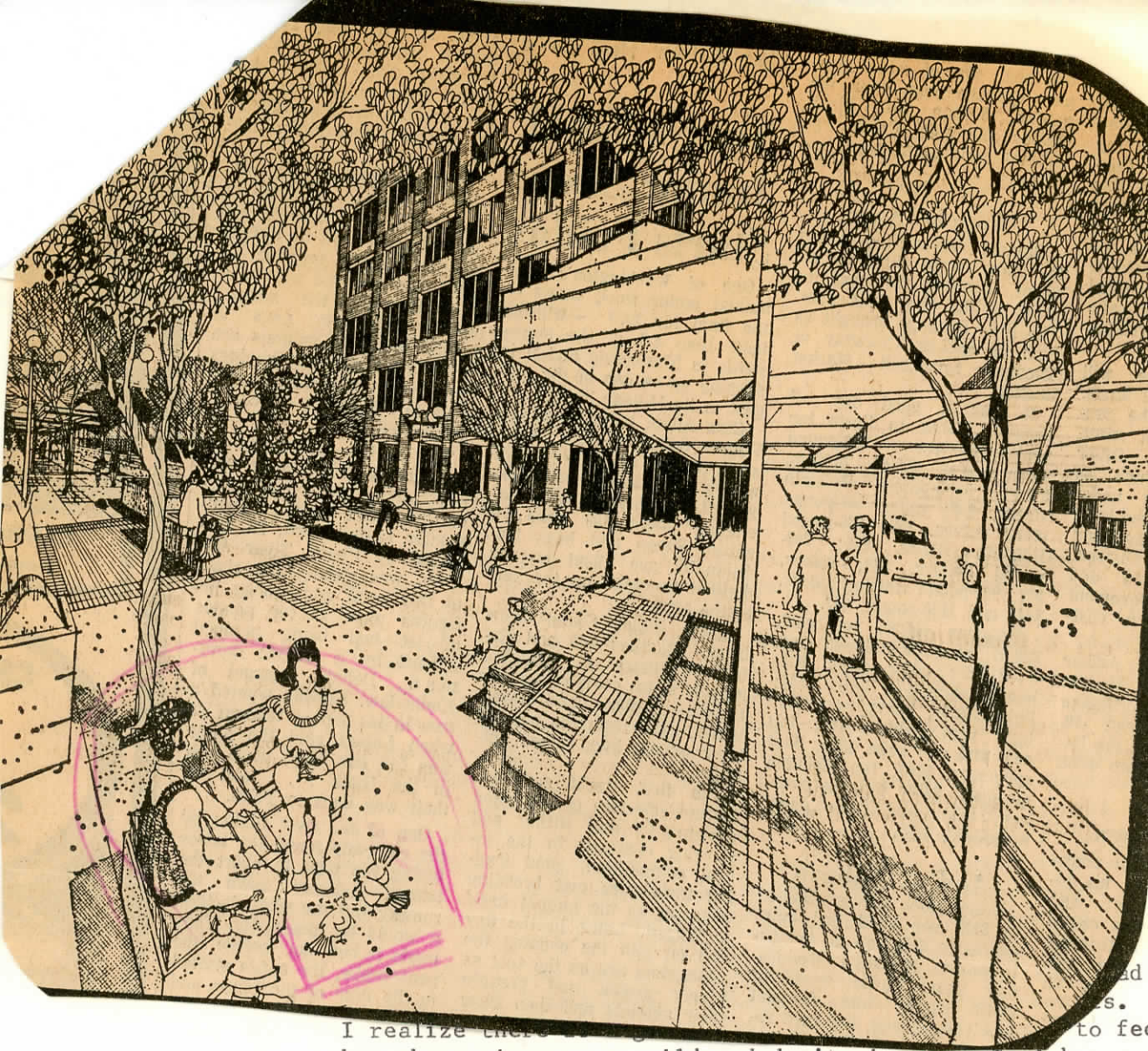
I did phone the Health Department, but found they had no law to trap and destroy these pigeons as they do rats. I realize there is a great urge of children and aged to feed the birds but these pigeons are wild and don't migrate. I wish you could and would consult with our Tahoma Audubon Society or our University Professors who really have made a study of birds and I feel sure they would agree that something should be done about these dirty birds.

Please take this up with our City Council or whatever Department necessary and let them inquire, see for themselves or better yet have some first hand experience and then get busy. People want our City beautiful and clean. There are so many good, honest and sincere people wanting our City Center revived and I for one encourage all you can get done, for its sad we had such a delay. People do say whats the matter with Tacoma? My reply is stop running it down and get busy and support all the things being done to make it a better place to live.

As a Senior Citizen I hear of their problems and one is the Bus Stops being so far apart that they dread the distance to walk especially in winter after reaching the bus line. I would think it might be wise to restore these old Bus Stops and try and revive the use of buses. Please see if something can be done.

Sincerely,

A resident of Tacoma for over
70 years, but dislike being publicized.



I realize there are many things that can be done to feed