



RESOLUTION NO. 38857

1 A RESOLUTION relating to temporary homeless camps; setting Tuesday, April 1,
2 2014, at 5:30 p.m., as the date for a public hearing before the City Council
3 for consideration of amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 13.05,
4 Permitting, and Chapter 13.06, Zoning, relating to the Temporary Homeless
5 Camp permitting process.

6 WHEREAS state law, RCW 36.01.290, grants authority to religious
7 organizations to host temporary camps on their private property for individuals
8 experiencing homelessness, and

9 WHEREAS the intent of these camps is to provide a temporary, safe, and
10 healthy housing alternative for homeless persons who want to live in a camp
11 environment who otherwise would be living on the streets, and to provide a place
12 where residents can be educated about services that they can take advantage of to
13 improve their life situation, and

14 WHEREAS the only limitation to the location of the temporary homeless
15 camps in the City is that the site must be on property that is owned or controlled by
16 the religious organization that is running the camp, and

17 WHEREAS approximately 50 church sites located in the City would meet the
18 location and lot size criteria to host a temporary homeless camp, and

19 WHEREAS the City desires to amend Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC")
20 Chapter 13.05, Permitting, and Chapter 13.06, Zoning, to provide regulations for the
21 establishment and operation of homeless encampments in the City, and

22 WHEREAS the proposed amendments were developed as a result of a
23 robust public outreach process, analysis of existing regulations in other Washington
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1 cities, and visits to active homeless camps, including interviews with camp
2 residents and host organizations, and

3 WHEREAS the proposed amendments will (1) establish a permitting process
4 and development standards for temporary homeless camps within the City of
5 Tacoma that are run by religious organizations, as provided for in RCW 35.21.915;
6 (2) add regulations to protect the public health and safety, as well as the safety of
7 residents in such camps; and (3) include rules for the application and permit review
8 process, camp size, number and frequency of camps, and specific health and fire
9 regulations for up to 100 residents to safely live for up to a maximum of 123 days in
10 a field living environment, and

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12 WHEREAS, along with the proposed amendments, the City prepared a
13 non-project State Environmental Policy Act ("SEPA") checklist, and a Preliminary
14 Determination of Non-Significance was issued on December 30, 2013, and

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16 WHEREAS the Planning Commission, after completing its review process,
17 including a hearing to receive public testimony on January 22, 2014, is forwarding
18 the proposed amendments to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption,
19 and

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21 WHEREAS the City desires to fix a time and date for public hearing for the
22 purpose of considering amendments to TMC Chapters 13.05 and 13.06, relating to
23 the temporary homeless camp permitting process; Now, Therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

25 Section 1. That a public hearing for the consideration of amendments to
26 Tacoma Municipal Code Chapters 13.05, Permitting, and 13.06, Zoning, relating to



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the Temporary Homeless Camp permitting process, shall be held before the City Council in the Council Chambers on the first floor of the Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington, on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at approximately 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City of Tacoma shall give proper notice of the time and place of said hearing.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney