



City of Tacoma
Planning and Development Services

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
July 25, 2017

SUBJECT

The subject of the public hearing includes the following components:

- (1) The emergency interim zoning regulations pertaining to emergency temporary shelters, enacted by the City Council on June 6, 2017, per Ordinance No. 28432; and
- (2) The findings of fact supporting the adoption of the interim regulations and providing the work plan for the development of permanent regulations, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

SUMMARY

The interim regulations are effective through November 14, 2017 or until the City's zoning regulations for emergency temporary aid and shelter are permanently updated. The interim regulations contain the following key provisions:

- Allowing the Director of Emergency Management to approve the nature, form, scope, design, and location, and provide oversight over, the erection, installation, implementation, management, and operation of emergency temporary shelters, when and where practicable;
- Exempting shelters from land use regulations and standards, except to the extent that federal or state law mandates compliance with a particular land use regulation or standard and compliance has not been excepted pursuant to operation of state or federal law or a declaration of emergency by the Governor or federal official or agency vested with authority to declare a public emergency; and
- Requiring the management of shelters to take into account: (a) access to basic health, support, and transportation services; (b) minimizing impacts on neighborhoods or environmentally sensitive areas; (c) ensuring safety and security of the occupants; (d) accommodation for those with access and functional needs; and (e) public outreach and engagement.

LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The adoption of emergency Ordinance No. 28432 is intended to limit the ongoing suffering of individuals, families, and youth occupying homeless encampments by creating provision of emergency temporary shelter. This is part of a three-phase plan that consists of mitigation of the conditions in homeless encampments in the first phase, providing emergency sheltering and transition services in the second phase, and providing long-term housing in the third phase; Ordinance No. 28432 addresses the second phase.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit the City of Tacoma's website at www.cityoftacoma.org and click on "Emergency Temporary Aid and Sheltering Plan on Homelessness" under the "What's Going On" tab.