



## ORDINANCE NO. 28457

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR THOMS

2 AN ORDINANCE relating to public health and safety; adopting additional  
3 findings; and, amending Section 6 of Ordinance No. 28430 by extending  
4 the sunset date of said ordinance from October 9, 2017, to December 31,  
5 2017, for the declaration of public emergency relating to the conditions of  
6 homeless encampments; and declaring an emergency, making  
7 necessary the passage of this ordinance and it becoming effective  
8 immediately.

9 WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017, the City Council enacted Ordinance  
10 No. 28430 (“Emergency Ordinance”), declaring a state of emergency relating to  
11 the conditions of homeless encampments and authorizing such actions are  
12 reasonable and necessary in light of such emergency to mitigate the conditions  
13 giving rise to such public emergency, and provided for a sunset date of  
14 October 9, 2017, and

15 WHEREAS, on June 5, 2017, the City Council approved a temporary  
16 emergency aid and shelter plan with a three-phased approach (Mitigation,  
17 Stabilization, and short-term transitional housing) at a projected cost of  
18 \$3.4 million, and

19 WHEREAS the Emergency Ordinance further provided that the City  
20 Council shall review the conditions that have given rise to the public health  
21 emergency to determine if such conditions warrant keeping in place the  
22 extraordinary measures authorized herein to respond to the public health  
23 emergency, and  
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1 WHEREAS, the City Council has conducted a review the efforts made to  
2 abate the conditions giving rise to the declaration of the public emergency and  
3 based upon such review, finds as follows:

- 4 • The City, within two weeks following the declaration of emergency,  
5 established a mitigation site at 18th Street and Portland Avenue  
6 (“mitigation site”) occupied by 118 individuals, 70 tents, and nine  
7 vehicles;
- 8 • Occupants of the mitigation site were provided with health and  
9 sanitation facilities, together with assessments and screening for  
10 housing needs, mental health and substance abuse disorders, needle  
11 exchange services, transportation to shower and laundry facilities,  
12 veterans outreach, meals, dental/physical health assessments,  
13 prenatal care and other needed services;
- 14 • The City, on June 26th, began transitioning occupants of the  
15 mitigation site to the stabilization site located at 1423 Puyallup  
16 Avenue (“stabilization site”), resulting in the relocation of 84  
17 individuals to the stabilization site, the referral of four individuals to  
18 housing options, the referral of one individual to substance use  
19 inpatient treatment, and the referral of one individual to mental health  
20 inpatient treatment;
- 21 • As of September 22nd, 90 individuals continued to reside at the  
22 stabilization site, 47 individuals developed housing stability plans,  
23 received housing referrals, or were enrolled in a housing program,  
24 and nine individuals transitioned from the stabilization site to housing;
- 25 • During the week of September 19th through September 21st, the City  
26 turned away one person a day from the stabilization site, 52  
individuals were on a waiting list for shelter at the stabilization site, 80  
individuals were turned away daily from the Nativity House Shelter,  
and two individuals were turned away daily from the Tacoma Rescue  
Mission;
- Although heightened enforcement and services have reduced resident  
and area health and safety impacts, conditions continue to exist  
resulting in homelessness encampments outside of the stabilization  
site throughout the City; since the Emergency Ordinance, and as of  
September 22nd, 327 homeless encampments have been removed  
throughout the City;



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- Although 84 percent of residents at the stabilization site require and/or qualify for permanent supportive housing, there is a shortage of permanent supportive housing in the region. If the stabilization site were to be shut down, 80-90 residents would be left without housing or shelter options and would experience increased health and safety issues;
- The stabilization site continues to remain at near capacity with slow outflow into stable housing;
- The City continues to evaluate opportunities to increase short-term transitional housing and partnering with Pierce County and other jurisdictions to address the challenges of addressing homelessness,

and

WHEREAS the City Council finds and concludes that the continuing and ongoing threat of significant harm to human health and life arising from the conditions in homeless encampments as described in the Emergency Ordinance have not yet been abated by the City's actions, resulting in the continued existence of the public emergency as declared pursuant to the Emergency Ordinance, and

WHEREAS the City Council further finds and concludes that the current and ongoing conditions warrant keeping in place the extraordinary measures authorized pursuant to Ordinance No. 28430 to respond to the declared emergency, and

WHEREAS the City Council further finds and concludes that it is reasonable and necessary, and in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, to continue the exercise of its power to declare a public health



1 emergency under authority of Article XI, Section 11, of the State Constitution,  
2 Chapter 38.52 RCW, Chapter 39.04 RCW, RCW 35.33.081, WAC 197-11-880  
3 and other applicable laws and regulations, and pursuant to Section 2.4 of the  
4 Tacoma City Charter, Chapters 1.06, 1.10, and 8.96 of the Tacoma Municipal  
5 Code, and the authorization of such extraordinary measures as are reasonable  
6 and necessary in light of such public health emergency to mitigate the  
7 conditions giving rise the public emergency; Now, Therefore,

8 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:**

9 Section 1. That the above-stated recitals are adopted as findings and  
10 conclusions of the City Council and are incorporated by this reference as though  
11 fully set forth herein.  
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13 Section 2. That Section 6 of Ordinance No. 28430 is hereby amended to  
14 read in its entirety as follows:

15 That this ordinance shall sunset and no longer be in force or effect at  
16 11:59 p.m. on ~~October 9~~ December 31, 2017.  
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18 Section 3. That the City Council shall, prior to December 31, 2017,  
19 review the conditions that have given rise to the emergency declaration made  
20 pursuant to Ordinance No. 28430 to determine if such conditions warrant  
21 keeping in place the extraordinary measures authorized herein to response to  
22 this public health emergency.  
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24 Section 4. That, based upon the facts and conclusions as specified  
25 herein and Ordinance No. 28430, a public emergency exists, making this  
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1 ordinance effective upon passage by an affirmative vote of a least six members  
2 of the City Council.

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4 Passed \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor

7 Attest:  
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City Clerk

10 Approved as to form:  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Chief Deputy City Attorney

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