



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Brian Boudet, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Set Public Hearing – September 26, 2017
DATE: September 12, 2017

SUMMARY:

Setting Tuesday, October 10, 2017, as the date for a public hearing regarding the proposed modification to the Emergency Temporary Shelters Interim Regulations and the six-month extension of the effective date of said regulations.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

The Emergency Temporary Shelters Interim Regulations support the following strategic policy priorities:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

BACKGROUND:

On May 2, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 39716, directing the City Manager to prepare an Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Program and an ordinance declaring a state of emergency, in response to the current homelessness crisis. On May 9, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 28430, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency, effective through October 9, 2017. On May 9, 2017, the City Manager developed the 3-phase Emergency Aid and Sheltering Program and immediately began the implementation of the program. On June 6, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 28432, enacting interim zoning and land use controls as an emergency measure, effective through November 14, 2017, to permit the City to site temporary emergency shelters in response to the declared public emergency. While the 3-phase Emergency Aid and Sheltering Program has been effective, the homelessness crisis continues to exist. The City Council also recognizes the need to modify and renew the interim regulations prior to their expiration on November 14, 2017, to enable the continued operation of the current stability site, as well as to allow faith-based organizations and non-profits to host temporary homeless camps, as substantially outlined in the Tacoma Municipal Code, Section 13.06.635.B.4. In accordance with TMC 13.02.055, the interim regulations may be renewed for six months, provided that a public hearing is held prior to the consideration of the extension. Following the public hearing on October 10th, the City Council is tentatively scheduled to consider first reading of the ordinance that evening and final reading of the ordinance on October 17th.

ISSUE:

These interim regulations as modified are an important element of the City Manager’s 3-phase Emergency Aid and Sheltering Program to address homelessness. With the inclusion of faith-based organizations and non-profits, members of the community will be able to support additional people as means and methods to combat this epidemic are developed.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could choose not to accept modifications to the interim regulations and/or allow the interim regulations to lapse. However, upon the expiration of the interim regulations and before permanent regulations are in place, the stability site would be out of compliance with law and subject to legal challenge. Additionally, choosing to not accept the modifications does not encourage other community actors to participate in solutions.



RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is recommended to set a public hearing for October 10, 2017 to receive public comment on the proposed modification to and the extension of the Emergency Temporary Shelters Interim Regulations. Once the public hearing is conducted, the City Council will subsequently consider an ordinance to renew the interim regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to setting this public hearing.