

CITY OF TACOMA

TEMPORARY HOMELESS CAMP PERMIT PROCESS

City Council Public Hearing
April 1, 2014

The seal of the City of Tacoma is visible in the bottom right corner. It features a circular design with the text "SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA" around the perimeter. The central image depicts a landscape with mountains, a sun, and a body of water with several boats.

Background

- ❖ **State law authorizes religious organizations to host temporary homeless camps (RCW 35.21.915)**
 - **Cities may impose conditions that protect the public health and safety**
- ❖ **Substantial public outreach**
- ❖ **Planning Commission recommendation**
- ❖ **Application fee development**

Proposal Components

❖ Permit Process

- New “Temporary Homeless Camp” Permit
- 14-day public notice, 400-foot radius
- Cross-dept. review of site/operations plan and inspections
- Planning Director decision, includes ability to condition proposal and modify basic standards

❖ Occupants

- Maximum: 100 adult residents
- Adults only
- Warrant and background checks are required
- Minimum camp area

Proposal Components (cont'd)

❖ Siting

- 2 camps at any one time
- Max camp duration: 93-days, with 2-year minimum to return to same site
- Hard surface/non-residential sites: Max duration 123 days, with 18-month minimum time to return to same site
- One time emergency extension: 40 days
- Must be within ¼-mile of transit stop

❖ Health and safety

- Showers, toilets, hand-washing, garbage pick-up, water, power
- Fencing, setbacks, shelter/tent separation, security and communications

Next Steps

April 7: Neighborhood and Housing Committee review and recommendation

April 15: City Council - 1st Reading

April 22: City Council - Final Reading

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