



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services *LS*  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution - Tacoma Rescue Mission Emergency Shelter Expansion -- May 7, 2019  
**DATE:** April 24, 2019

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**SUMMARY:**

This Resolution would authorize the use of \$1,600,000 in Capital Funding to support the development of The Tacoma Rescue Mission's emergency shelter expansion of 50 beds. The increase of emergency shelter beds responds to the current state of emergency by reducing the amount of individuals residing in unauthorized encampments and areas unfit for human habitation. The expanded shelter project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

State and briefly explain which strategic policy priority is best aligned to this action. Please remove the statements below you are not directly addressing.

- 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:**

In May 2017 The City of Tacoma declared a state of emergency in response to the growing number of people living in homeless encampments in Tacoma. To address the emergency a three phase emergency response plan was developed. Phases I & II were implemented to immediately mitigate public health impacts of encampments and provide safe, hygienic, temporary shelter for those residing in them. Phase III was intended to identify short term transitional housing, which was referred to as the "Readiness Site." Staff research has determined that a transitional housing option such as the "Readiness Site" is not a financially feasible or sustainable option. Instead of transitional housing, staff is recommending using funding previously authorized to develop a "Readiness Site" for shelter expansion at the Tacoma Rescue Mission. This shelter expansion project will utilize an existing building located at the current Rescue Mission site on South Tacoma Way, by transitioning a warehouse and storage facility for use as a permanent shelter. The building will provide temporary shelter for adults (men, women, and couples).

The City's capital investment for this expanded shelter site will be capped at \$1,600,000. Two private donors from the Tacoma community have committed a combined additional \$600,000 toward the shelter expansion, on the condition that the City funding is secured. The total cost for the expansion project is \$2,650,000, and The Rescue Mission is committed to the difference of \$450,000.

Approval of the proposed allocation of the second part Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 2) for this project by June 30, 2019, will allow the City to utilize the greater flexibility in REET 2 allocation afforded by the recently enacted Engrossed House Bill 1219.

**ISSUE:**

In 2019 the Pierce County Point in time Count identified 1,486 individuals experiencing homelessness in Pierce County, and 436 of those were in Tacoma. Of the 436 individuals, 120 were unsheltered (living on the streets or in areas unfit for human habitation).



In Tacoma there are currently 400 shelter beds available for single adults, families, youth, young adults and survivors of domestic violence experiencing homelessness. Each night Tacoma’s emergency shelters turn away 60-70 individuals and families due to limited availability of bed space.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council could choose to not authorize the use of funds, which would cause a delay in the development of emergency shelter availability, and risk the loss of private funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize reallocation of funding previously authorized for use as part of the homelessness emergency response to support the development of emergency shelter expansion at the Tacoma Rescue Mission, which will increase available shelter by 50 beds by the end of 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**EXPENDITURES:**

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Fund 3211 - Special Capital	814170	5600000	\$1,600,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,600,000</b>

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Fund 3211 - Special Capital	814170	6311102	\$1,000,000
Fund 3211 - Special Capital	814170	6311000	\$350,000
Fund 3211 - Special Capital	814170	6311061	\$250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,600,000</b>

**FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$1,600,000**

**ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes**