



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Erica Azcueta, Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services *EA*  
Linda Stewart, Neighborhood and Community Services *LS*  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance – Declaration of State of Emergency – Extension  
**DATE:** December 4, 2018

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**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance would authorize extension of the declaration of emergency and the emergency authority granted pursuant to Ordinance No. 28430, as amended by Ordinance No. 28457 and Ordinance No. 28477, to remain in effect through the end of 2019 in order to continue the City’s efforts to mitigate the conditions in homeless encampments.

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

The strategic policy priorities aligned with this action are:

- 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 9, 2017, the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 28430 (the “Emergency Ordinance”) declaring a state of emergency relating to the conditions of homeless encampments and authorizing such actions are reasonable and necessary to mitigate the conditions giving rise to the public emergency. Upon issuance of the declaration of emergency, the City began implementation of a Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan which was formally approved by the City Council on June 9, 2017, with an estimated cost of \$3.4 million through December 2017. The Emergency Ordinance was scheduled to sunset on October 9, 2017, unless the City Council determined that ongoing conditions warranted keeping in emergency declaration in place. On October 3, 2017, the City Council determined that the conditions giving rise to the public emergency had not been abated and adopted Ordinance No. 28457, extending the declaration of emergency through December 31, 2017. On December 5, 2017, Council approved Ordinance No. 28477, extending the declaration of emergency to December 31, 2018, and authorizing additional expenditures of nearly \$7.0 million through the end of the 2018 to provide continued funding for the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan.

Efforts made to abate the conditions giving rise to the declaration of the public emergency and the extension of that emergency are summarized as follows:

- In 2017, a mitigation site was established at 18th street and Portland Avenue (the “mitigation site”) which was occupied by 118 individuals, 70 tents and 9 vehicles, and occupants of the mitigation site were provided with health and sanitation facilities together with assessments and screening and other needed services.
- A majority of mitigation site occupants were transitioned to a City-owned property located at 1423 Puyallup Avenue (the “stability site”).



- As of November 15, 2018, 227 individuals have received services at the stability site. Of the 81 individuals currently receiving services at the stability site, 62 have developed housing stability plans, housing referrals or are enrolled in a housing program.
- Regardless of the lack of available, appropriate housing for the high-needs individuals entering the stability site, a total of 51 have transitioned from the stability site to housing which represents 22% of the total population served at the site to date.
- Conditions similar to those at the onset of the declaration continue to exist, resulting in homeless encampments outside the stability site and throughout the City, as evidenced by 109 homeless encampments located on City property and cleaned in 2018.
- During 2018, the Tacoma Police Department Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) has:
  - Identified 2,246 homeless encampments located on private and public property in Tacoma
  - Contacted 228 individuals experiencing homelessness at encampments and 86 accepted referrals to supportive services.
- Consistent with the Affordable Housing Action Strategy, the City continues to evaluate and pursue opportunities to increase sustainable housing options and partner with Pierce County and other jurisdictions to address the challenges of addressing homelessness.

**ISSUE:**

The 2018 annual Point in Time County data reflects that 1,628 (529 in Tacoma) individuals are experiencing homelessness in Pierce County.

Significant numbers of individuals and families continue to experience homelessness due to factors related to job loss, stagnant and declining wages, family crisis and domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, loss of housing, and lack of affordable housing. Although the conditions for many individuals formerly occupying homeless encampments have been mitigated through the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Program, unsanitary and unsafe conditions remain in homeless encampments throughout the City. While these encampments are mostly smaller in size, conditions continue to create potential for disease transmission within and external to encampments. Without the declaration of emergency and the power and authority granted therein, intervention and provision of needed services to mitigate impacts will be delayed by normal contracting, budgetary and regulatory processes.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council could choose to not to extend the declaration of emergency and instead follow normal contract, budgetary and regulatory processes.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council amend Ordinance No. 28430, as amended by Ordinance No. 28457, and Ordinance No. 28477 by extending the sunset date of the declaration of emergency from December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019, and keeping in place the declaration of public emergency and the power and authority granted therein to the appropriate public officials to exercise their power and authority under the City Charter, state law, and City code to take and continue to take such actions as are reasonable and necessary to respond to the public health emergency.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$2.6 million dollars (2019 funding) if approved by City Council as a part of the 2019-2020 budget.

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
General Fund – Phase II	91101	5330100	\$1,137,619
General Fund – Phase III	91105	5330100	\$341,791
1185-MSHUD – Phase II	859101	5330100	\$1,151,187
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,630,597</b>

\* General Fund: Include Department

**REVENUES:**

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
General Fund	Various	Various	\$1,479,410
.1% MSHUD	859101	4313250	\$1,151,187
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,630,597</b>

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