



**CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST (CCR)**

**TO:** Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Councilmember Keith Blocker  
**COPIES TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager; Executive Leadership Team; File  
**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 28216  
**DATE:** May 2, 2017

**ITEM/ISSUE PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Study Session:

I respectfully ask for City Council concurrence to direct the City Manager to have staff and the Planning Commission reexamine the City's regulations regarding Temporary Homeless Camps (Ordinance No. 28216). This review should, at a minimum, consider increased flexibility for faith-based organizations to participate and provisions to allow temporary homeless encampments on other private or public properties. Policy discussions and recommendations should be coordinated through the IPS Council Committee.

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

The City Council adopted the land use regulations concerning the Temporary Homeless Camp Permitting Process on April 22, 2014, by Ordinance No. 28216, after conducting a public hearing on April 1, 2014, and based on the Planning Commission's recommendation of February 19, 2014.

There is continuing and growing interest in the community to better address homelessness and to provide options for those experiencing homelessness. RCW 35.21.915 was enacted in 2010 by the State to ensure religious organizations were authorized to provide temporary homeless encampments on property they owned or controlled.

The City responded by establishing a permitting process in 2014 which, based on the Planning Commissions' recommendations, lays out the maximum time they may exist at one site, basic requirements for the sites, and other regulations to ensure the health and safety of the camp residents and the community at large.

Since the adoption of this ordinance only one religious organization has participated in this program, and that was only for a limited duration shelter during cold weather season. We have received feedback that some of the regulations are overly onerous, or limit the ability of religious organization's to participate. In addition, cities such as Bothell have established procedures allowing any organization to apply, not just religious institutions.

In light of a growing homeless population and the urgent and desperate need, I respectfully request Ordinance No. 28216 be reexamined to find potential flexibility to allow more religious



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organizations to participate, and to allow any organization to apply to host a temporary camp, while adhering to appropriate public health and safety requirements.

SUBMITTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION BY:

**SUPPORTING COUNCILMEMBERS SIGNATURES (2 SIGNATURES ONLY)**

*(Signatures demonstrate support to initiate discussion and consideration of the subject matter by City Council for potential policy development and staff guidance/direction.)*

1.

POS # 6

2.

POS# 1