



Emergency Declaration on Homelessness Extension

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

City Council Study Session
November 19, 2019



BACKGROUND



- In May 2017 City Council declared a state of emergency around homelessness through October 2017.
- The state of emergency has been extended and currently is in effect until December 31, 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS



- To extend the sunset date of the declaration of emergency until there is 95% of unsheltered individuals as noted in the annual Point in Time Count for the previous three years.

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Temporary Emergency Micro Shelters

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Background



- Ordinance No. 28615 amending TMC 8.27
 - Limiting permissible structures
- Mitigation
 - Portable restrooms and handwashing stations
 - Trash receptacles
 - Positive Interactions and Homeless Outreach Team
 - Community site management
 - Enhanced lighting
 - Drinking fountain



Current Shelter Availability



- Adult and family shelter beds = ~400
 - Additional ~160 beds during inclement weather
- Young Adult shelter beds (ages 18-24)= ~40
- Crisis Residential Center beds for youth (ages 12-17)
 - Current 6
 - Future 12 (Arlington Campus)
- Domestic Violence shelter beds = 117
- Stability Site shelter beds = 100

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Upcoming Shelter Availability



- Tacoma Rescue Mission (Adult males and females) – 50
- Bethlehem Baptist (families, females and couples without children)- 40
- Altheimer (families with children) – 32

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Recommendations



- Temporary Emergency Micro Shelter Site located at 802 MLK Jr. Way
 - 22 units
 - 35 individuals
 - 24/7 site management
 - Case management
 - On-site amenities
 - Communal food prep station
 - Communal portable restrooms and handwashing station
 - Storage site
 - Fencing
 - Security cameras

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Site Map



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Outreach



- Media Advisory
- Canvassing
 - ½ mile radius
 - Flier with upcoming council dates and contact information for 311 and public safety personnel
- Community meetings
 - New Tacoma Neighborhood meeting - November 13, 2019
 - Pierce County Homeless Coalition – November 15, 2019
 - Hilltop Action Coalition - November 18, 2019
 - Hilltop Business District – November 21, 2019
 - Centro Latino – November 27, 2019
 - Public Information Session - December 4, 2019
- Website

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Timeline



- Contract to operate Micro Shelter site – November 19, 2019
- Contract start date – November 20, 2019
- Micro Shelter site removed – June 2019

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Tacoma City Council Study Session
Proposed Changes to Temporary Shelter Regulations
November 19, 2019

Addressing Sector limitation

Tacoma Municipal Code 13.06.635.4.c.(6) currently states: In no event shall more than six temporary shelter sites be permitted within the City at any given time. Additionally, a maximum of two (2) shelters should be allowed in any single Police Sector at any given time and a minimum of one mile must separate each temporary shelter site. Prior to approving a request for a second temporary shelter location within a sector, all other sectors shall have a temporary shelter location. As part of process for approving a second location within a sector, the City shall determine whether there are adequate City services to support the second location in a sector.

Tacoma Municipal Code 13.06.635.4.c.(6) would state: In no event shall more than six temporary shelter sites be permitted within the City at any given time. ~~Additionally, a maximum of two (2) shelters should be allowed in any single Police Sector at any given time.~~ **No given Police Sector will have a total number of temporary shelter sites serving more than a total of 150 residents at any given time** and a minimum of one mile must separate each temporary shelter site, **except where the Director determines adjusting proximity will not provide over-concentration of services or result in an adverse impact to the surrounding community.** **Prior to approving shelter sites the total capacity of temporary shelter sites in a given sector shall be evaluated.** ~~a request for a second temporary shelter location within a sector, all other sectors shall have a temporary shelter location.~~ As part of process for approving ~~a second~~ **additional locations** within a sector, the City shall determine whether there are adequate City services to support ~~the second~~ **additional locations in a sector.**

Addressing square footage threshold

Tacoma Municipal Code 13.06.635.4.c.(2) currently states: (2) A minimum of 7,500 square feet of site area shall be required for shelters serving up to 50 people. The minimum site area may be proportionally reduced if adjacent existing buildings are used for sleeping or support facilities such as kitchen, dining hall, showers, and latrines. (3) For a shelter serving more than 50 residents, the minimum 7,500 square foot site area shall be increased by 150 square feet for each additional resident, up to a total of 100 residents.

Tacoma Municipal Code 13.06.635.4.c.(2) would state: (2) A minimum of ~~7,500 square feet~~ **150 square feet** of site area **per resident** shall be required for **any given shelter** ~~shelters serving up to 50 people.~~ The **Such** minimum site area may be proportionally reduced if adjacent existing buildings are used for sleeping or support facilities such as kitchen, dining hall, showers, and latrines. ~~(3) For a shelter serving more than 50 residents, the minimum 7,500 square foot site area shall be increased by 150 square feet for each additional resident, up to a total of 100 residents.~~