



RESOLUTION NO. 41787

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBER RUMBAUGH

2 A RESOLUTION related to community services; directing the City Manager to seek
3 partnerships with other agencies to identify a location and funding options to
4 create a new low-barrier shelter site.

5 WHEREAS, despite funding constraints, the City remains deeply committed
6 to connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to shelter and support
7 services, focusing on sustainable solutions and pathways to permanent housing,
8 and

9 WHEREAS the City recognizes the complexity and impact that
10 homelessness and encampments have on communities, which is why our
11 response to homelessness and encampment removals includes investment in
12 community resources, including sheltering and food banks, outreach, and mental
13 health services, and

14 WHEREAS the City's Homelessness Strategy includes low-barrier shelter
15 sites, and the City Council appreciates the work of staff in constantly seeking
16 opportunities and partnerships for increased shelter options, and this request
17 allows the City to prioritize this effort in our homeless response with hopes in
18 finding a more immediate solution, and

19 WHEREAS in 2025, Pierce County's annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count
20 counted 2,955 people on streets and in shelters representing an 11 percent
21 increase from the prior year with approximately 50 percent of individuals who
22 reported a zip code identified as residing in a Tacoma zip code, however at the
23
24
25
26



same time 76 percent of sheltered individuals across Pierce County were in
shelters in the City of Tacoma, and

WHEREAS the proportion of people engaged through outreach who
ultimately secure shelter placements has increased from eight percent in 2023 and
2024 to the current placement rate for 2025 of 14 percent, but a majority still do not
accept services, and

WHEREAS there are a variety of reasons people do not accept services,
including a lack of interest in currently available options, as well as challenges with
the restrictions in place on current sites, and a low-barrier approach is intended to
be more attractive to individuals in need of shelter, and

WHEREAS as of the end of July 2025, the City saw a reduction of 199 beds
supported by City funds, and this decrease occurred in June and July and included
decommissioning the Forging Path site at 3561 Pacific Avenue, which had
sheltered up to 135 individuals, and

WHEREAS the Forging Path site was a low-barrier site, and this low-barrier
site not only provided safe spaces, but also demonstrably improved our
communities and helped individuals move towards stability, and following Forging
Path's opening, the Tacoma Police Department Crime Dashboard showed a
38 percent total reduction in crimes in the surrounding area (one-quarter mile
radius) compared to the year prior, and



WHEREAS due to Forging Path's low-barrier operations, it served
1 295 people, with 66 individuals successfully transitioning to permanent housing as
2 of May 26, 2025, providing evidence that a low-barrier approach is more attractive
3 to individuals in need of shelter and prioritizes accessibility for those facing
4 challenges like homelessness, mental health issues, or substance use disorders,
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS while the City still maintains 100 low-barrier beds at the Stability
8 Site, the Stability Site both has more requirements than Forging Path did and is not
9 able to serve the same broad clientele, and
10

11 WHEREAS the City Council sees the need for a regional approach to the
12 issue of homelessness that stretches far beyond the City's borders, and in Pierce
13 County government there is renewed interest in regional collaboration through the
14 Unified Regional Approach to Homelessness, led by Pierce County and including
15 13 additional local jurisdictions creating an opportunity to harness this energy and
16 collaborate on providing the most needed shelter services for our community
17 prioritizing low-barrier shelters; Now, Therefore,
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the Council of the City of Tacoma hereby directs the City Manager to seek partnerships with other agencies to identify a location and funding options to create a new low-barrier shelter site, and the City Manager should provide an update on these efforts to the City Council within 60 days.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney