



Media Update

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Gwen Schuler, Media and Communications, gschuler@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 591-5152

Megan Snow, Media and Communications, msnow@cityoftacoma.org, (253) 591-5051

Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan Update for the Week of August 14-18

Upcoming Items of Interest:

- City staff will provide a presentation on the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan to City Council during their Study Session at noon on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. The purpose of this update is to satisfy the requirement of Ordinance 28430, which was passed by City Council on May 9, 2017, to declare a state of public health emergency relating to the conditions of homeless encampments. The Ordinance required that the City Council review the conditions that have given rise to the public health emergency to determine if conditions warrant keeping in place the extraordinary measures authorized in the public health emergency declaration.

This Week:

- The City is continuing to evaluate all options for more permanent short-term transitional housing solutions.
- Media access to the Stability Site will remain limited to outside the fence perimeter.
- For inquiries or to setup an interview, please contact the City's Media and Communications Office.
- The City welcomes assistance and support from residents, community partners and neighboring jurisdictions to help address issues surrounding homelessness.

Background:

- Catholic Community Services is providing onsite management at the Stability Site, which opened on June 26.
- The Tacoma City Council approved a motion on June 6, 2017 that accepted staff's recommendation to implement two non-consecutive mitigation sites and one stability site through December 31, 2017 as part of the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan for an investment of up to \$3.4 million.

- The Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan is temporary. The Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which the Tacoma City Council passed on May 9, 2017 will be in effect for six months.
- Visible homelessness is growing and is resulting in unsafe human living conditions for people who are living in encampments or in their cars as well as for people who live and work around encampment areas. In response to growing concerns from residents, businesses, property owners and service providers, Mayor Marilyn Strickland and the City Council determined the City needed to explore new approaches to address the public health and safety needs in the community.
- The majority of people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma are from Tacoma and surrounding Pierce County communities. According to the 2017 Pierce County Point-In-Time Count, which counts the number of people in the county experiencing homelessness, almost **80% of people reported they had lived in Pierce County before becoming homeless.**

Future Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Program updates will be released on Fridays. This update and past updates are available online at cityoftacoma.org/homelessupdates.