



Media Update

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Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan Update for the Week of July 10-14

This Week:

- The Tacoma City Council passed a “Public Camping” Ordinance and a Human Habitation of Vehicles Ordinance on July 11, 2017 and both ordinances became immediately effective.
- The “Public Camping” law is intended to address the public health and safety conditions that are caused by unauthorized encampments. Under the law daytime sunshades in public spaces and picnicking are still allowed.
- The Human Habitation of Vehicle Ordinance reduced the time period a vehicle used for human habitation can be parked in a particular location in the city from a maximum of seven days to 72 hours and requiring the vehicle to be moved at least one mile away after 72 hours. The ordinance also changed the penalty to an escalating fine from \$50 to \$250 based on the number of citations.
 - The human habitation of vehicle ordinance does not inhibit the City’s authority to impound vehicles that are obstructing traffic, presenting a threat to public safety, or are inoperable, in accordance with state law.
 - The City allows for the issuance of a permit to property owners allowing temporary lawful habitation of a vehicle for 14 consecutive days per calendar year.
- 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 first mitigation site is active through June 26 to reduce the health and safety impacts of homelessness. The first stability site, which will be located on City-owned property at 1423 Puyallup Avenue is expected to be operational on June 26 to provide an alternative location for people experiencing homelessness to go.
- 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.