



# Media Update

From the City of Tacoma, Washington  
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### MEDIA CONTACTS

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

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

### Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan Update for the Week of June 5-9

#### This Week:

- 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.
- To assist with siting the temporary emergency shelter, the City Council also passed Ordinance 28432 on June 6, 2017, which adopted interim zoning and land use controls as an emergency measure to permit the City to site temporary emergency shelters in response to the declared emergency.
- 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.

#### Background:

- 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.**

- On May 18, 2017 the first Temporary Rapid Resource Pop-up was established at Portland Ave and E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street on City property adjacent to an existing encampment **with a duration of up to six weeks.**
  - The Pop-up provides: portable toilets, handwashing stations, drinking water and 24-hour daily site security as well as outreach services.

**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](http://cityoftacoma.org/homelessupdates).**