



# 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 26-30

#### This Week:

- The Phase 2 Stability Site opened on Monday, June 26 at 1423 Puyallup Ave.
  - Between Monday, June 26 and Wednesday, June 28, 74 residents transitioned to the site.
  - The site has 83 tent sites.
  - Catholic Community Services is providing onsite management.
- On Thursday, June 29, the Mitigation Site, located at East 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Portland Avenue, was closed.
  - Encampment cleanup was completed on Friday, June 30:
    - Portable toilets, garbage containers and the administrative office have been removed.
    - Power and water to the site have been disconnected.
    - All four lanes of traffic on Portland Avenue is reopened.
- 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.
- If you plan to visit the site or have inquiries, please contact the City's Media and Communications contacts ahead of time to make arrangements.
- The City welcomes assistance and support from residents, community partners and neighboring jurisdictions to help address issues surrounding homelessness.

#### Background:

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