



Media Update

From the City of Tacoma, Washington
cityoftacoma.org

Released

Oct. 13, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

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 Oct. 9-13

Next Week:

- The City Council is expected to hear the final reading of Ordinance No. 28460 regarding the [Emergency Temporary Shelters Interim Regulations](#) on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017.
- Please note, the City Council Meeting location has been moved for Oct. 17, 2017 to the Pantages Theater (901 Broadway).

This Week:

- A public hearing was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 during the Tacoma City Council on the proposed ordinance to extend and modify the Emergency Temporary Shelters Interim Regulations.
- Media access to the Stability Site will remain limited to outside the fence perimeter.
- For inquires 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:

- During the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 3, the Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance No. 28457, which amends Ordinance 28430 to extend the sunset date of the declaration of public health emergency relating to the conditions of homeless encampments through December 31, 2017 and took effect immediately.
- During the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 3, the City Council also passed Ordinance No. 28458, which amended Chapter 8.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to Disorderly Conduct, to prohibit public property camping, by extending the sunset date from October 9, 2017, to December 31, 2017.

- During the Tacoma City Council Study Session on Tuesday, Oct. 3, City staff provided a presentation updating the City Council on the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan. The [presentation is available for review](#) and the recording available on [TV Tacoma's web page](#).
- 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.
- 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.