

CITY OF TACOMA

TEMPORARY HOMELESS CAMPS

Proposed Amendment to TMC 13.06.635 -
Temporary Uses

John W. Harrington, Jr.

Principal Planner

Planning and Development Services Dept.

Planning Commission Meeting

September 18, 2013

Background

- ❖ **2010 state law authorizes religious organizations to host temporary homeless camps (RCW 36.01.290)**
 - May locate on church owned or controlled property
- ❖ **Cities may impose conditions that protect the public health and safety**
 - A number of camp characteristics and operating standards may be determined by the city

Background (cont'd)

❖ Discretionary regulations examples

- Camp size
- Duration
- Number of camps
- Frequency of use of same property for camps
- Resident make-up
- Camp setbacks from residential uses
- Parking
- Transit access nearby

Approach

❖ Conduct Public Outreach

- Community based agencies
 - Religious organizations
 - Organizations working with the homeless
 - Neighborhood and business groups
 - City commissions

❖ Coordinate with SME public agencies

- Neighborhoods and Community Services Dept
- Police and Fire Departments
- Health Department
- Interdepartmental Team

Approach (cont'd)

- ❖ **Benchmark regulations from other cities**
 - **Comparative spreadsheet**
 - **11 cities**
 - **Wide range of requirements**
 - **Varying review processes/notice reqmt's**
 - **Lynnwood and Spokane most comprehensive**

Next Steps

- Sep-Oct: Continue community outreach and internal stakeholder meetings**
- Oct 7: Neighborhood and Housing Committee**
- Nov 6: Planning Commission – present summary of findings and draft regulations**
- Nov 20: Planning Commission – set a public hearing date**
- Dec 2: Neighborhoods and Housing Committee**
- Dec 18: Planning Commission Public Hearing**
- Jan 15, 2014: Planning Commission Review**
- Feb 5: Planning Commission recommendation**
- Feb-Mar: City Council consideration**

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