



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Erica Azcueta, Program Manager, Neighborhood & Community Services
Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood & Community Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: [Resolution – LIHI Emergency Micro Shelters] – November 19, 2019
DATE: November 13, 2019

SUMMARY:

Neighborhood & Community Services recommends that a contract in the amount of \$388,000 be awarded to Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), Seattle, WA, to operate a temporary emergency shelter site, proposed to be located at 802 MLK Jr. Ave.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs

BACKGROUND:

In May 2017, the City of Tacoma declared a state of emergency around homelessness, to mitigate the impacts of unauthorized homeless encampments in Tacoma, and enable processes to quickly address the public health and safety risk encampments pose to those inhabiting them, and the surrounding community. In response to the emergency, the City set up the Stability Site to provide temporary emergency shelter for up to 100 individuals, and adopted temporary shelter regulations to allow faith-based and nonprofit organizations to operate temporary shelters on their property, with a goal to increase the amount of shelter beds available. Currently, the declaration of a state of emergency related to homelessness has been extended through December 1, 2019.

The Annual Point-in-Time Count conducted in January 2019, reported 436 homeless individuals in Tacoma (120 unsheltered). This data shows that there is still a deficit in available shelter beds in Tacoma, and there are still individuals and families living in situations that are not fit for human habitation.

On October 1, 2019, Tacoma City Council adopted Ordinance No. 28615, amending Tacoma Municipal Code 8.27, to address the emerging public safety issues impacting the quality of life in public parks. One of the updates to the code limits permissible “structures” in parks to only those specifically authorized or are temporary that have only a roof and no walls. Since adoption of the code, individuals staying at in public parks have moved their structures to City right-of-way, where structures are also prohibited.

ISSUE:

LIHI is a nonprofit organization that has been establishing and operating small emergency shelter communities throughout King County. They are available to donate and set up micro shelter units, and operate a temporary emergency shelter site at 802 MLK Jr. Way for no longer than eight months to address the public health and safety hazards posed to the individuals residing at unauthorized encampments in the Hilltop area. Individuals referred to the temporary emergency shelter site will be connected to supportive services to address their barriers to housing (housing navigation, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, permanent shelter placement, etc.) and transitioned to other safe and stable housing options.



ALTERNATIVES:

Council could choose not to approve contract request. City staff would continue to explore options for providing emergency shelter, housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommend approval of this contract to provide housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
0010 General Fund – NCS Homeless Declaration – Phase II	091101	5330100	\$388,000
TOTAL			\$388,000

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
0010 General Fund – NCS Homeless Declaration – Phase II	Various	Various	\$388,000
TOTAL			\$388,000

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$388,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Funds are budgeted, but this specific contract was not planned.

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

N/A