



October 4, 2020

To: Neighborhood and Community Services, City of Tacoma

From: Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Support for TEMS at 6th and Orchard

Who We Are:

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness is a loose network of individuals, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and community businesses working together to serve people experiencing homelessness. Each week, 50-100 coalition participants meet and more than 500 people are on the Coalition's email distribution list.

Why This Letter:

We are writing in support of the TEMS project at 6th and Orchard. Pierce County continues to lack adequate shelter, and this project is one of the many types of shelter the Coalition strongly supports, most recently in the May 18th, 2020 COVID-19 funding recommendations (<https://pchomeless.org/Home/COVID19>).

These shelter beds will become available at a critical time. Our Coalition is working hard to ensure that at least 400 Winter Shelter beds are created before the weather sets in. While this shelter will not come on-line until the end of December 2020, the fact that it is funded through July 2023 secures those beds well into the future. Every unit, every bed, every type of safe shelter will help people survive the coming winter. Participants in our Coalition stand ready to help the people experiencing homelessness who will reside in this TEMS end their homelessness and move to permanent housing.

We especially applaud the siting of this shelter. People experiencing homelessness come from all parts of Tacoma. The closer someone stays to their support structure, the easier it is for them to exit homelessness. The neighborhood around 6th and Orchard currently provides no nearby services to people experiencing homelessness. During the past year, over 200 people experiencing homelessness identified their last permanent residence in the 98406 zip code – 100 of them utilizing emergency shelter. This site gives the 98406 neighborhood the opportunity to better serve their neighbors who become homeless.

We want you to know that the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness voted formally to support this new TEMS.

Contacts for the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness:

Gerrit Nyland, gnyland@pchomeless.org 253-304-5105

Maureen Howard, mhoward@pchomeless.org 253-255-2200