



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - info@pchomeless.org

April 22, 2022

To: County Executive Bruce Dammeier
From: The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness
Re: Safe Parking Ordinance 2022-24

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, welcome the April 19 action of the County Council approving Ordinance 2022-24, the “Safe Parking” ordinance, that provides an important tool for faith communities and other civic groups to respond to the immediate crisis of street homelessness.

Acknowledging the rights of faith communities under state law, HB 1754, the County Council’s action also extends opportunities for emergency action by encouraging civic groups and others to propose similar transitional, short-term uses of their property. We strongly support this action of the Council as an emergency response that will help mitigate the worst effects of homelessness as we work to end it.

By approving Resolution No. R2022-22s2, The Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, Pierce County has set truly ambitious goals. While working for long term solutions, the plan commits to meeting the immediate needs of persons living homeless. Included in the plan is a commitment to the creation of 170 safe parking spots. Ordinance 2022-24 offers real evidence of this commitment.

We know that implementing the County’s Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness will be a heavy lift. Small victories can keep us focused and encourage greater collaboration. While we work to create a community where homelessness is rare and non-recurring, this ordinance offers a small measure of safety and security today for our most vulnerable residents.

We urge your support for Ordinance 2022-24.

Thank you,

Rosemary Powers
For the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

cc: Members of County Council, Heather Moss