



Seattle City Council

Mayor Ed Murray
City Hall, 2nd Floor
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98014

Monday July 6, 2015

Dear Mayor Murray,

Thank you for notifying the Council of the city-owned land available for transitional encampments.

Ordinance 124747, which was adopted unanimously by the Full Council in April 2015, codified a framework for establishing transitional encampments as an interim use. Through that ordinance, the Council acknowledged that the current capacity of our housing and homeless services continuum cannot meet the needs of all those who are homeless and, as an interim alternative, tent encampments can offer a sense of safety and community while seeking longer term housing options.

The ordinance established that no more than three encampments may be permitted at any given time, each with fewer than 100 occupants, and that services, outreach, and case management will be provided and made available to individuals in transitional encampments. The encampments should also provide access to bathrooms, potable water, and have regular garbage collection. Council hopes permitted sites can also accommodate some amount of vehicular residents with potential safe places to park, if possible.

The Department of Planning Development was tasked with creating a list of City-owned properties that could serve as sites on a rotational basis for one or more encampments. Council understands the following addresses represent the city-owned sites identified for transitional encampments, ready for use in 2015:

- a. "City Light Market Substation Site" at 2826 NW Market Street,
- b. "City Light Interbay Site," at 3234 17th Avenue W, and
- c. "City Light S. Industrial Way Site," at S. Industrial Way between 5th and 6th Ave. S.

In addition, sites identified in the attached Map indicate potential future sites.

Each of these sites appears to meet the locational criteria outlined in the ordinance including being proximate to transit. All of the proposed sites appear to be viable sites and we support further exploration of each of them.

As your Office and related Departments continue their work, we request that you work closely with the communities around each of the proposed sites to establish successful partnerships between the transitional encampment and the broader community. Neighboring residents and business have many logistical questions about how a transitional encampment will work and how it could impact their neighborhood.

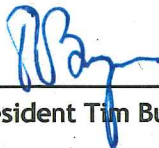
The opportunity for community engagement should not be utilized by neighbors and businesses as a platform to exclude transitional encampments from any of our neighborhoods. The Council will not lend a sympathetic ear to these efforts. Instead, this engagement should be utilized as an opportunity to build strong community-based partnerships to ensure the successful co-existence of transitional encampments and other residential and commercial uses in these neighborhoods.

We expect that your Office's and/or Departments' engagement include, at a minimum, outreach to any Community Council, District Council and neighborhood Chambers of Commerce in each of the proposed neighborhoods, as well as providing a clear place that the public can go to have their questions answered. This may be a combination of online information, a clear community contact and/or information accessible at neighborhood service centers or libraries.

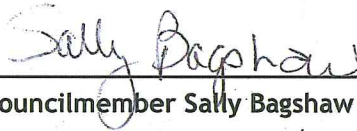
The ordinance also requires that the encampment operator convene at least one public meeting in the neighborhood where the transitional encampment interim use is proposed to be established, at least 14 days prior to applying for a permit. We expect the operator's public meeting will address the required establishment of a Community Advisory Committee, among other issues relevant to each specific site. The City's outreach and engagement must precede the operator's public meeting to allow the community to have a direct conversation with the city prior to their meeting with the encampment operator.

Thank you again for your timely work to identify these city-owned sites and ensure that they are established in a successful and timely manner.

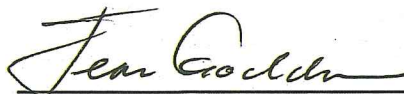
Sincerely,



Council President Tim Burgess



Councilmember Sally Bagshaw



Councilmember Jean Godden



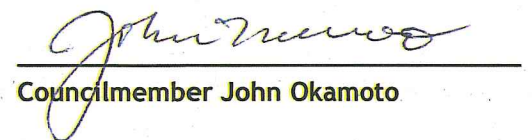
Councilmember Bruce A. Harrell



Councilmember Nick Licata



Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Councilmember John Okamoto



Councilmember Kshama Sawant