

## Day 35 and Counting

### Compilation of Information and Recommendations for “Warm, Safe, Dry” Shelter from TPC Coalition to End Homelessness Participants, Tacoma Housing Authority, and Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee Comments on Code Change, City of Tacoma Neighborhood & Community Services

#### Status of Additional Night Shelters, Day Shelters, Services Possible by Dec. 1

##### **Additional Night Shelters Already Planned to Open - Population & Capacity & Opening Date**

**Bethlehem Baptist Church & Tacoma Rescue Mission** - families, single women, couples - 40 beds, in City permitting process, no opening date available yet

**Freezing Nights Puyallup** - single adults, 70 beds, Nov. 1 - March 31

##### **Additional Day Shelters Already Planned to Open**

None

##### **Permitted Encampments Already Planned to Open**

None

##### **Additional Night Shelters & Permitted Encampments Under Discussion that Could Open by Dec. 1**

Shelter A - 10 beds

Shelter B - 22 beds

**Coordinated Motel Voucher Program** - minimum of 10 rooms/night (YWCA has only \$2000 available)

Target households with children, high risk/ill/vulnerable adults, pregnant women, households with a gap for permanent housing

Would hospitals pay for vouchers for patients being discharged to cars/tents/etc?

**Travel trailer village** on Salvation Army or some other parking lot - ten trailers, project has a pro forma, interested dealer, dealer financing, water & sewage service, not sure about power, one issue is liability insurance

**Gig Harbor churches** safe parking program - Dec. 1 might be too soon?

##### **Additional Night Shelters & Permitted Encampments that Could Open by Jan. 1, 2020**

**Unknown number of nonprofit/faith community shelters** - provide amnesty for those operating without permit

**Tiny House Villages** - LIHI requires two months' to be up and running, probably looking at Jan. City has invited proposal from LIHI.

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### **Additional Night Shelters that Could be Considered**

**Tacoma Ave. Shelter** - 100 beds +/- single adults downstairs; families with children upstairs. City says would be \$1M+ to renovate

### **Additional Day Shelters Under Discussion that Could Open by Dec. 1**

None

### **Existing Day Shelters that Could Expand Hours of Operation by Dec. 1 with Funding**

**CCS - Family Day Center**

**Coffee Oasis - Youth**

**Tacoma Rescue Mission - single adults**

### **New Permanent Night Shelter - Future**

**TRM Women's Shelter** - single women, 50 beds, March 2020

### **Services that Could Be On-Line by December 1st**

Metro Parks to clarify where and when homeless people can shower

Expanded outreach teams and let the community know how to reach them - text address to a central text number ?

Expanded hours for Coordinated Entry program, expand use of technology to register

City to provide public dumpsters and Honey Buckets and hand washing stations in known and new frequently used areas - i.e. 19th & Stevens by Fred Meyer

Charging stations

Sharps boxes in known drug use areas

Use MultiCare mobile urgent care, including medications, for shelters and camping areas with high numbers of people with mental illness.

Hire homeless people to manage camping areas, tiny house villages, safe parking programs. Applicable City Codes

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### **Future Services**

At least one safe injection site.  
Navigation Centers - physical places as in San Francisco and soon, Seattle  
Urban rest stop - laundry, storage, indoor daytime shelter space  
Solar toilets for camping areas.

### **Some Types of Shelters Needed**

Ones that safely house children - estimated 2000 homeless children in Tacoma schools  
Low- barrier - no criminal activity within shelter  
ADA accessible  
“Mary’s Place” model - families in vacant commercial space  
Pet-friendly  
Space to store belongings  
24 hour  
“Rent to own” travel trailer program for working people experiencing homelessness  
Respite beds for people couch surfing, living in vehicles  
Clean and sober shelters for those in recovery but without housing, unable to get into Oxford House or other post-treatment housing  
Recognize established communities of people experiencing homelessness and re-locate them together  
City/county owned and operated shelter  
Small urban camp demonstration of Theresa Power-Drutis white paper

### **Winter Priorities**

#### **Prevent harm**

#### **Shelter children**

#### **Shelter people with medical conditions**

### **Properties Suggested for Additional Night and/or Day Shelters**

1. Vacant Sixth Ave. K-Mart. Ensure clean up crews maintain area within and around shelters and camping places. Pay homeless people to do clean-up, hire temporary workers, engage volunteers.
2. Vacant K-Mart on Pacific and 176th.

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4. Abandoned/derelict homes - City has list of about 200. Give city first right of refusal of any property with any government money in the property and/or mortgage. Would banks do this as part of CRA? (Community Reinvestment Act)
5. Tacoma Youth for Christ office off Tacoma and 21st.
6. Empty building and parking lot at 7th and Fawcett
7. Gault School - see final page for outline of proposal and diagram of school
8. Golf courses and their parking lots
9. Huge lot at Pacific and 36th, vacant and fenced. Pierce County owned?
10. Good size lot at 7th and Yakima.
11. Kandle Park - police substation, basically empty parking lot, Metro Parks checking ownership of parking lot and availability of showers
12. Tacoma Dome Parking Lot
13. Vacant Rite-Aid on MLKing, owned by Forterra
14. THA land waiting development at least one year out.
15. "The Bix" at St. Leo Catholic Church for additional day shelter
16. Parking lot - Lutheran Church on Sixth & Puget Sound, next to fire station
17. "The Bridge" - former Methodist Church at 56th & Puget Sound
18. Use empty commercial buildings with planned development at least three years out for "Mary's Place" model
19. Businesses and home owners to allow 1 or 2 tiny houses on their space. Provide partial sponsorship of tiny house. Use individual contracts between owner and tiny house occupant.
20. Identify Public land and buildings: city, county, libraries, parks, school district, higher ed., hospitals, utility companies, Port of Tacoma, non-profits
21. Unused police substations
22. Fire stations

### **Potential Camping & Safe Parking Areas - Ask Homeless People for Suggestions**

1. Vacant or unused parking lots for "concrete camping"
2. Clarify requirements for safe parking programs
3. Talk with King County churches who have done safe parking programs for 5+ years
4. Garages with marked parking spaces cf Portland - each person gets a numbered space.
5. Managed campgrounds style areas with access to transportation
6. Identify and use area campgrounds that close during the winter. Some people could pay, on a sliding scale, for a spot. KOA style.

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7. Contract with parking garages
8. Review City of Victoria, BC, Brisbane, Australia and other examples of multiple use of parks and parking garages.
9. Walmart
10. A system of neighbors, the faith community, and businesses can offer to participate in offering spaces to people experiencing homelessness; map of all locations with number of tents allowed.

### Transportation

1. Pierce Transit “shelter and services” vans, ORCA cards, UBER, LYFT, gas cards
2. Maintain, insurance, and register privately owned vehicles registered to homeless people.

### Information/Communication Needed

1. Reframe the conversation about homelessness and be clear about how people can help.
2. A basic script on who and why people are homeless and what you can do - use the City’s language on sheltering everyone
3. Accurate real time information on shelters and services available to the public in several formats.
4. Accurate information about availability of shelter space and conditions for use; same with services.
5. Real time information for people experiencing homelessness, first responders, service providers and community members to know when and where spaces and services are available and conditions for use
4. 24/7 human telephone responders at homeless shelters and services.
6. Develop a social media response any of the participants in the TPC Coalition to End Homelessness could use - with Next Door and other groups.
7. Keep in mind Tom Pierson’s (TPC Chamber of Commerce) “you only know what you see.”
8. Follow up with News Tribune reporter Allison Needles on a series of articles, Tacoma Weekly, and others

### Initial Expectations of City of Tacoma

1. Have a plan in place if there are not at least 400 new night shelter beds and day shelter spaces by Dec. 1
2. Commit to no arrests of unsheltered people who are not engaged in criminal activity.
3. Use the City Housing Trust Fund and/or the 1406 money to increase shelter space.
4. Provide list of additional day and night shelter beds as they are permitted and confirmation of opening
5. Review inclement weather plan
6. Create a Safe Shelter Task Force with broad community representation
7. Create a Safe Shelter advisory group made up of homeless/formerly homeless people and their allies

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8. Adopt a no sweeps policy through the Winter. If sweeps are to continue, develop a protocol - for people experiencing homelessness, for outreach workers, for neighborhoods where sweeps are taking place, and neighborhoods that will likely be impacted by the sweeps as homeless people move on.
9. Engage the Neighborhood Councils and identified neighborhood organizations in recommendations for “safe, warm and dry” shelter within their neighborhoods
8. Provide weekly updates on additional day and night shelter space
9. Make the amount of variable funding public,
10. Make sources and uses of funds for shelters and services for homeless people publicly available without requiring a public disclosures request.
11. Identify government and non-profit properties evaluated for use as permitted encampments
12. Determine baseline health and safety codes for faith community and non-profit owned and/or managed shelters and camping places.
13. Review and revise current City “Temporary Shelter” ordinance. especially the one per police sector element. Proposed 100 beds/ police sector.
14. Create “easy to use” guides for establishing and operating temporary indoor shelters, safe parking programs, permitted and managed encampments, services
15. Give homelessness the same city structural organizational priority as Race & Equity or Neighborhoods & Community Services; develop proactive policies, programs, and a communication strategy.
16. Consider Austin, TX, Mt. Vernon, WA and other cities’ ordinances
17. Work with other mayors and Pierce County Executive on a county-wide plan for additional day and night shelters and services this winter.

### Engage

1. Tacoma Public Library - new leadership
2. Health insurance companies
3. The other five chambers of commerce, the Economic Development Board
4. The private sector
5. The foundations
6. Private developers who have benefitted from the city’s MultiFamily Property Tax Exemption - suggest financial contribution commensurate with benefit.

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**Current Night Shelters and Capacity - Capacity does not include emergency mats and/or inclement weather increases**  
**This capacity assumes all shelters listed are funded through Winter, including overflow and inclement weather costs**

### **Households with Children**

**LASA - Family Shelter - 1 unit**

**Helping Hand House - 8 units**

**Tacoma Rescue Mission - Adams Street/Family Shelter - 31 units**

**Salvation Army Jarvie Lodge - 10 units**

### **Single Adults**

**Tacoma Rescue Mission - Downtown Campus - Single men -90 beds and 36 mats**

**Tacoma Rescue Mission - Adams Street - 6 single adults**

**CCS The Nativity House\* - 117 Single men**

**City of Tacoma Stability Site - 60 tents and 24 pallets shelter - single adults and couples**

**CCS The Nativity House\* - 50 single women**

**Salvation Army - 8 single women - Puyallup residents only**

**Salvation Army - 6 single men - Puyallup residents only**

**\*CCS The Nativity House reserves 13 beds for homeless people discharged from local hospitals)**

### **Current Night Shelter for Youth/Young Adults 18-24**

**Comp Life Resources - Young Adult - 33**

### **Current DSHS Certified Shelter for Youth 12-17**

**Community Youth Services - New Directions - 7**

**Coffee Oasis Youth Shelter - 6**

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### **Current Motel Vouchers**

#### **Helping Hand House**

YWCA (\$2000) - domestic violence, families, single adults

### **Current Day Shelter - Capacity - Note days and hours open are limited by shelter**

**CCS The Nativity House** - 299

**CCS Family Day Center** - 40

**Coffee Oasis Youth** - 30 or 40

**Indian Day Center** - \_\_\_\_\_

**New Hope** - 79 (Puyallup)

### **Informal Shelters**

Informal Church Shelters - unknown

Informal Motel Vouchers - unknown

### **Permitted Encampments**

None

### **Current Domestic Violence Shelters - Households with Children**

YWCA Domestic Violence - 16 units

KWA Domestic Violence - 4 units

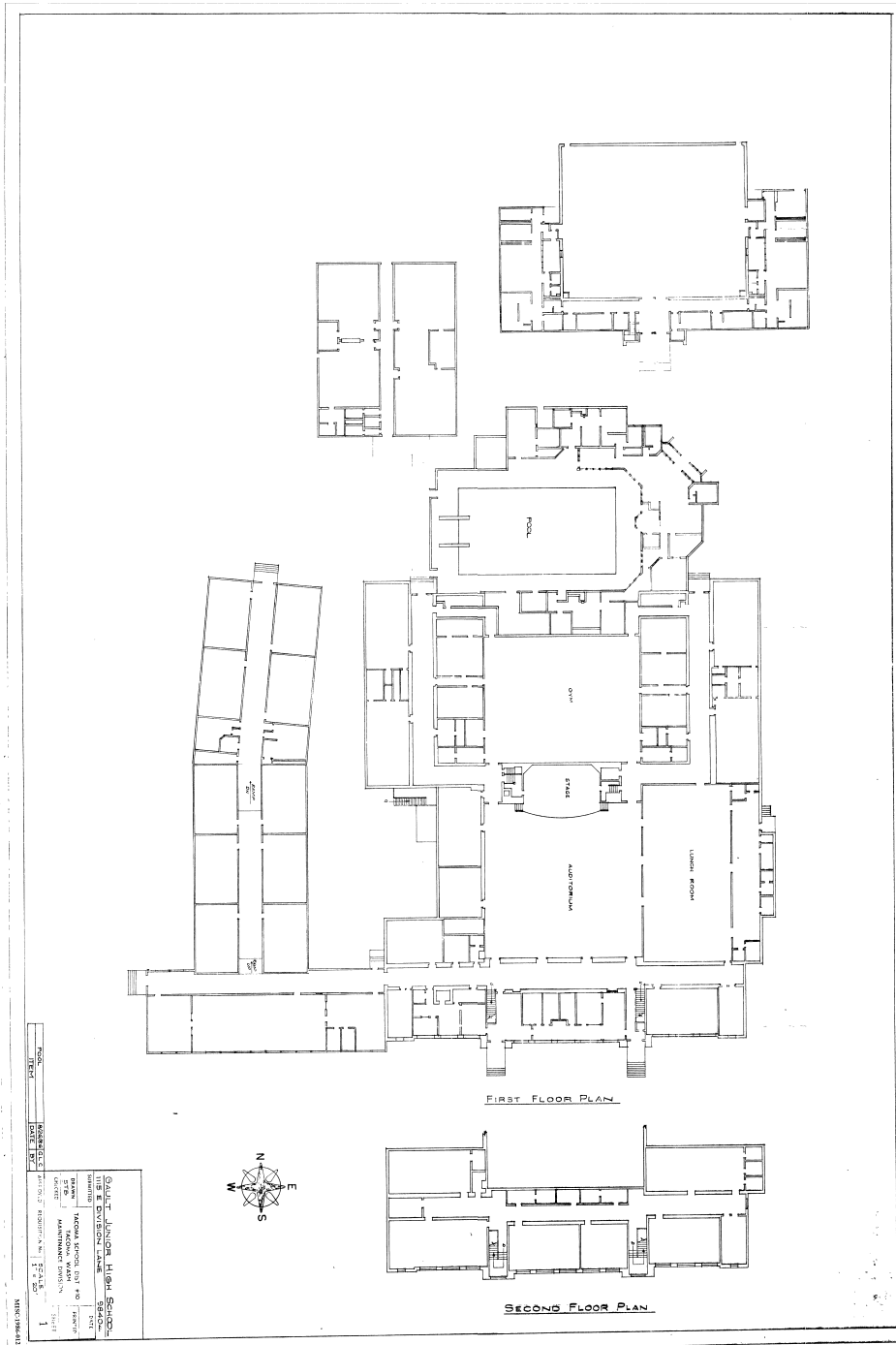
### **Current Domestic Violence Shelters - Single Adults**

YWCA - 4 single adults

KWA - 3 single women



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### Gault School

Gault Junior High, 1115 E. Division Lane, Tacoma, is believed to be closed and currently unused; also that it is on property owned by Pierce County.

The attached diagram of this school shows that it has potential for conversion to some form of transitional, temporary shelter, if there were approval to do it.

Would anyone in the Coalition take this forward?

If so, we might be able to get some volunteer professional architecture assistance in determining what to do to convert the building.