

Resolution 2022-19-PT



A RESOLUTION of the Port of Tacoma Commission directing the Executive Director to prepare and present to the Commission alternatives to assist local governments in responding to the growing number of individuals in Tacoma and Pierce County experiencing homelessness.

WHEREAS, Tacoma and Pierce County has a growing population of individuals who are experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the supply of shelter space, temporary and/or permanent supportive housing in Tacoma and Pierce County is inadequate to meet demand; and

WHEREAS, the number and size of unsanctioned encampments throughout the city, county, and on industrial lands in the Tacoma Tideflats, has been increasing; and

WHEREAS, conditions in unsanctioned encampments are dangerous to the inhabitants' health and safety, especially those encampments that are not in close proximity to services, sanitation facilities and other human health and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, regional and local policy identify residential and temporary housing as incompatible uses of industrial lands that should be prohibited, including the Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2050 / Manufacturing Industrial Center polices, the Growth Management Act Container Port Element requirement (RCW 36.70A.085), and the Shoreline Management Act use preferences for water-dependent industrial uses, such as the Port's marine terminal facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, The Northwest Seaport Alliance, of which the Port of Tacoma is a Managing Member, adopted Guiding Principles related to maritime and industrial lands, including the need to minimize incompatible uses, including residential; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted a five-year Strategic Plan that includes a strategy calling on the Port to develop and support land use and infrastructure policies that protect the cargo supply chain and promote a robust employment base; and

WHEREAS, RCW 53.08.245 authorizes port districts to engage in economic development programs; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 53.08.080, the Port of Tacoma may lease its real and personal property "for such purposes and upon such terms as the Port Commission deems proper;" and

WHEREAS, as part of the Port of Tacoma's responsibility as an economic development agency, the Port recognizes there are two distinct issues that the Pierce County community is concerned with:

- 1) Provide adequate shelter for the unsheltered population
- 2) Create affordable housing in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Port of Tacoma Commission:

1. That the above-stated recitals are adopted as findings of the Port Commission and are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.

2. That the Port Commission concludes as follows:
 - A. The number of unsanctioned encampments in Tacoma is growing, posing an increasing risk to the health and safety of encampment residents.
 - B. The Port wishes to support local governments addressing issues surrounding homelessness in our community, within the confines of the Port's limited statutory authority as a special purpose district.
 - C. Residential uses, whether permanent or temporary, are incompatible with industrial lands zoning and inconsistent with applicable law, codes, and policies.
3. That the Executive Director is directed to prepare and present to the Port Commission alternatives by which the Port, within the scope of its authority as a special purpose district, could provide support to other local governments to help address the issues of unhoused individuals consistent with the findings above.

ADOPTED by a majority of the members of the Port of Tacoma Commission at a meeting held on the **20th day of October 2022**, a majority of the members being present and voting on this resolution and signed by its President and attested by its Secretary under the official seal of said Commission in authentication of its passage this 20th day of October 2022.

Don Meyer, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

ATTEST:

Kristin Ang, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission