

MEMORANDUM

To: Graduate Program

From: Bilinda Hunter, student, *BH*.

Date: 02/03/2023

Subject: Public Policy Memo

SUMMARY

Tacoma city council bans camping within 10 blocks of temporary shelters beginning Nov, 14 2023

The ordinance makes public camping within the impacted areas a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to a \$250 fine or up to 30 days in jail.

- ❖ A proposed ordinance could mean banning unsanctioned encampments within 10 blocks of shelters operated by the city.
- ❖ Proponents said it would help channel people into much-needed programs, but opponents said it's just literally pushing the problem down the road.

BACKGROUND

Encampments create a public safety concern for people who live in the space, because of the exposure to human waste, drug paraphernalia and /or inclement weather.

CONCLUSION

After many visits to the encampment sites, a large amount of the population seemingly do not want to go to a shelter. Because of the familiarity. They are more comfortable at the encampment site.

RECOMMENDATION

The City will continue to address encampments inside and outside camping prohibited zones with priority given to sites with health, safety or infrastructure needs; this aligns with how encampment removals are conducted throughout Tacoma.

REFERENCES

www.CityofTacoma.org