

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

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**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEMORANDUM**

October 15, 2019

TO: Whatcom County Council  
FROM: Whatcom County Council Staff  
RE: Ordinance adopting interim zoning regulations for temporary homeless facilities

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On October 8, 2019, the Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee reviewed draft interim zoning regulations for the siting, establishment, and operation of temporary homeless facilities and provided feedback and suggested revisions. The proposed ordinance includes the following revisions (strike through = deleted, bold underlined = added):

1. Page 1  
WHEREAS, Ordinance 2018-041 ~~is set to expire~~**expired** on July 24, 2019; and
2. Page 3  
Section 3. Definitions. The following definitions apply to temporary homeless facilities:  
  
"Temporary homeless facility" means a facility providing temporary housing accommodations that includes a sponsor and managing agency, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness in general or for specific populations of the homeless. Temporary homeless facilities include **but are not limited to** temporary tent encampments and temporary tiny house encampments.
3. Page 4, Section 4.I.  
I. No children under the age of 18 are allowed to stay overnight in the temporary encampment, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. If a child under the age of 18 without a parent or guardian present attempts to stay at the encampment, the sponsor and the managing agency shall **actively endeavor to find alternative shelter for the child through community partners such as Northwest Youth Services, Opportunity Council, Lighthouse Mission, Interfaith Coalition and other appropriate homeless youth services organizations. Children under the age of 18 without a parent or guardian present shall be allowed to remain in a temporary encampment while alternative shelter is being sought.**~~immediately contact Child Protective Services and shall actively endeavor to find alternative shelter for the child.~~
4. Page 8, Section 10.  
Section 10. Duration of Interim Ordinance. This interim ordinance will replace Ordinance 2018-041 and shall be in effect for one year beginning on ~~July 9~~**November 6**, 2019, and ending on ~~July 9~~**November 6**, 2020, unless another ordinance is adopted amending the Whatcom County Code and rescinding this interim ordinance before ~~July 9~~**November 6**, 2020.