

INFORMATION FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

The section that Council had an issue with is under Section 4, 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 immediately contact Child Protective Services and shall actively endeavor to find alternative shelter for the child.”

The concern from some Councilmembers is the “immediately contact Child Protective Services.” Could it be written as follows;

“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 immediately contact Child Protective Services and~~ 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.”

INFORMATION FROM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

In response to the specific question about children under 18, Northwest Youth Services has a shelter for kids aged 13 – 17. They call it the PAD (Positive Adolescent Development), located at their offices on State Street. It is only for unaccompanied children, however.

The Lighthouse Mission has a special room for families with children under 18. Interfaith Coalition has the Family Promise program that offers temporary shelter to families with children. The Opportunity Council provides motel stays, and Lydia Place has some ability to provide temporary housing to families with children.

... the Mission or the Opportunity Council are the best first stops for families with children under 18 who have no home/shelter.