

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Ketil Freeman/4-8178	N/A

*\* Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

#### **Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to land use and zoning; providing that transitional encampments for homeless individuals are allowed on any property owned or controlled by a religious organization without approval of a permit under the Seattle Land Use Code, to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals as an interim use on all publicly owned or private property within the City of Seattle, and providing for renewal of temporary use permits for transitional encampments as a Type I decision of the Director of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections; amending Sections 23.40.002, 23.42.054, 23.42.056, 23.76.004, 23.76.006, 23.76.032, and 23.84A.038 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and amending Ordinance 124747.

#### **Summary and background of the Legislation:**

A transitional encampment is defined in the Land Use Code (Seattle Municipal Code, Title 23) as a use intended for temporary sleeping and shelter. Encampments may be authorized as a use accessory to a religious institution, as a temporary use, or as an interim use. There are currently nine encampments operating in the city, which receive City funds for operation. While operating costs vary depending on the services provided by the operator, the average expenditure by the City per encampment is approximately \$390,000. Of the approved appropriations in the 2019 Adopted Budget, approximately \$4.8 million is allocated for transitional encampments.

In 2015, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 124747, which added Section 23.42.056 to the Land Use Code to permit transitional encampments for homeless individuals to locate as an interim use on sites owned or operated by the City of Seattle or private owners for a period of up to one year, and within the following zones: Industrial zones, Downtown zones, except for Downtown zones defined as residential, Seattle Mixed zones, Commercial 2 (C2), Commercial 1 (C1), Neighborhood Commercial 3 (NC3) and Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2) zones. Section 23.42.056 includes the following requirements:

- Creates a “Type 1” Master Use Permit (non-appealable and not subject to public notice) that would have a one-year term (compared with the existing 4-week limit on Type 1);
- Requires encampment operators to have prior experience managing or operating shelters, low income housing, or homeless encampments;
- Establishes a maximum limit of no more than three encampments would be permitted and operating at any one time;
- Requires a minimum of 12 months after a transitional encampment interim use permit has expired before a new transitional encampment could be established at the same site;

- Allows a maximum of 100 occupants and requires 100 square feet of land per occupant (already established in the Code for encampments on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations);
- Requires a plan to address site management, maintenance and security;
- Requires compliance with the same health, safety, and inspection requirements that have been established for encampments on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations;
- Establishes parking requirements for encampments if they are not located on sites owned or controlled by religious organizations (1 space for each 2 staff members on-site at peak staffing times); various exceptions to parking requirements in the existing Code would apply;
- Requires that encampment use must be located at least 25 feet from any residentially zoned lot – sites may be closer than 25 feet to residentially zoned lots if encampment boundary is set back at least 25 feet and landscaping, fencing or similar buffer is added;
- Requires that sites with interim use encampments must be 5,000 square feet or larger; must be located within one-half mile of a transit stop; and must be located at least one mile from any other legally established transitional encampment interim use;
- Requires that encampment use must be located outside of wetland, wetland buffer, steep slope, steep slope buffer, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas regulated by the City’s regulations for Environmentally Critical Areas or the Seattle Shoreline Master Program;
- Requires that an encampment use cannot displace or occupy an area that is used to meet required provisions for an existing permitted use, such as area for required parking or setbacks;
- Establishes community outreach requirements to give neighbors advance notice of encampments, together with specific operations standards to be implemented by operators of each encampment; and
- Requires that the operator allow service providers such as social workers to access the site when a City-owned property.

The current proposal would retain many of the requirements in Ordinance 124747, while making the following changes:

- Exempt encampments on property owned or controlled by a religious organization from land use permitting requirements;
- Remove the current requirement that encampments on property owned or controlled by a religious organization be accessory to an existing principal use on that property;
- Permit transitional encampments on sites owned or controlled by the City of Seattle, including sites owned by other public entities such as King County or the State of Washington if the site is controlled by the City, such as through a lease;
- Remove the requirement that transitional encampments be located at least one mile from any other legally-established transitional encampment use;
- Continue to permit transitional encampments on sites owned by private owners;
- Continue the time limit for an interim use permit for a period of up to one year, but within all zones, including residential zones;

- Allow unlimited renewals of the one-year permit for additional one-year terms, subject to compliance with all applicable regulations, particularly in Sections 23.42.054 and 23.42.056, and remove the requirement that encampments move to a new site after a maximum of two years at any one location;
- Remove the requirement that encampments must be located at least 25 feet from any residentially zoned lot or, if a site is closer than 25 feet to residentially zoned lots, that the encampment boundary be set back at least 25 feet, since the proposal would allow transitional encampments to locate in residential zones;
- Require screening (fence or wall) for all lot boundaries;
- Changes the limit of three encampments City-wide to a maximum of forty encampments;
- Remove the sunset date of March 31, 2020 for interim use encampment regulations; and
- For encampments established by the 6-month temporary use process, which is an appealable “Type II” Master Use Permit, allows conversion of the 6-month permit to an interim use as a non-appealable Type I permit.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_ No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_ No

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?**

No. Any potential future costs to the City would be contingent on non-regulatory policy choices related to funding potential encampments. Those choices are not compelled by this legislation.

**Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

No.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

Yes, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, which administers Title 23 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

Yes.

- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**

No.

- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

Yes.

- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

This legislation is non-project and does not effect a specific piece of property.

- f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**

None identified.

- g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).**

Not applicable

**List attachments/exhibits below:**