

This amendment modifies a recital to reflect that appropriations subject to a Council proviso in the 2020 Budget for homelessness could be expended on tiny house villages, enhanced shelter, or both. Changes are shown in track changes.

WHEREAS, Seattle has been in a State of Civil Emergency on homelessness since 2015; and  
WHEREAS, the 2019 Point in Time Count found there are 11,199 homeless people in King County including 5,228 sleeping unsheltered on the streets; and  
WHEREAS, tiny house villages have proven to be an effective place for homeless individuals and families to find the safety, privacy, and human dignity necessary to get back on their feet and transition to affordable housing; and  
WHEREAS, tiny houses provide the security of a sturdy wood structure, a place to store personal belongings, insulation, and electricity; and  
WHEREAS, tiny house villages have operated with a self-management model where residents democratically run their communities; residents have reported this model has helped them overcome the isolation and alienation of homelessness, and residents have become more successful transitioning into permanent housing; and  
WHEREAS, in 2018 residents of tiny house villages successfully transitioned to permanent housing at higher rates than residents of shelters, with 56 percent obtaining permanent housing or transitional housing; and  
WHEREAS, between 2016 and 2018, approximately 500 people transitioned to permanent housing from Seattle’s tiny house villages; and  
WHEREAS, through the 2020 Adopted Budget the Council appropriated approximately \$2,015,000 to fund operations and siting for two additional tiny house villages or enhanced shelters and approved Statement of Legislative Intent HOM-4-A-2, which requests cost estimate and siting information for tiny house villages; and  
WHEREAS, the Council intends to consider in the future whether to increase or remove the limit on the maximum number of interim use transitional encampments based on changes in the population of unsheltered persons, available siting opportunities, funding availability, and the success of tiny house villages in exits to permanent housing; and  
WHEREAS, Ordinance 124747, which established “Transitional Encampments as an interim use” in Seattle’s land use code in 2015, created the legal framework for Seattle’s tiny house villages, but allowed no more than three tiny house villages at any one time, and will sunset on March 31, 2020 if there is no further legislative action; NOW, THEREFORE,