

THURSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY PLANNING

PLANNING COMMISSION – SEPTEMBER 7, 2022



Emergency Housing Ordinance Code Amendment

PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW UP

- Changes based on last meeting:
 - Make public informational meeting a requirement
 - Cap the maximum number of residents permitted with an emergency waiver
- Further discussion points raised at the last meeting:
 - Change “shall” to “may” regarding prohibition on drugs and alcohol
 - Prohibition of weapons, requiring safe-storage on-site
 - General liability insurance as a waivable criterion

CHANGE “SHALL” TO “MAY” REGARDING PROHIBITION ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- Draft code states that alcohol and drugs shall be prohibited
- Planning Commission asked about changing “shall” to “may”
- County PAO recommends not making this discretionary
- Should the Planning Commission still want to consider the prohibition on alcohol and illegal drugs discretionary, staff has provided the alternative language:
 - “...and ~~shall~~may prohibit alcohol, and illegal drugs, and shall prohibit ~~weapons,~~ fighting...”

PROHIBITING WEAPONS, OR REQUIRING SAFE-STORAGE ON-SITE

- Draft code currently allows weapons in encampments
- Prohibition of weapons was removed during development of interim ordinance in 2019 due to 2nd amendment concerns and by BoCC direction
- County PAO recommends against a prohibition on weapons
- Initial cost and staffing costs for safe storage could be overly burdensome and cost-prohibitive to hosts and sponsoring agencies, may also pose 2nd amendment concerns.

PROHIBITING WEAPONS, OR REQUIRING SAFE-STORAGE ON-SITE

- If the Planning Commission would like to still consider requiring safe storage, staff has provided the language below:
 - “The sponsoring agency shall self police and self manage its residents, and shall prohibit alcohol, illegal drugs, ~~weapons~~, fighting, and abuse of any kind, littering or disturbing neighbors while located on the property. Safe-storage must be provided for weapons on the property.”

GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

- Currently general liability insurance is a waivable criterion
- Whether or not insurance should be waived comes down to a risk assessment
- Language added that requires Director to consult with County Risk Management prior to waiving liability insurance
 - “Waiver or modification of TCC 20.35.090 (12) also requires concurrence from Thurston County Risk Management in addition to the other requirements necessary for a waiver under this Section.”

NEXT STEPS

If no further questions or discussion, the Planning Commission may make a recommendation.

- (Draft motion) Move to recommend approval of Development Code Docket Item A-24, Emergency Housing Ordinance: Permitting Criteria Flexibility, which amends the Homeless Encampment and Administrative Procedures Chapters within Titles 20, 21, 22, and 23 to allow for a waiver of some permitting criteria of homeless encampments during a declared emergency, and clarify application and permitting procedures for homeless encampments.

QUESTIONS?

Project Contact:

Leah Davis, Associate Planner

Leah.Davis@co.thurston.wa.us

(360) 786-5582

Maya Teeple, Senior Planner

Maya.Teeple@co.thurston.wa.us

(360) 545-2593