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**COMMUNITY PLANNING &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Creating Solutions for Our Future

Joshua Cummings, Director

September 7, 2022

Thurston County Board of Commissioners
2000 Lakeridge Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502

**SUBJECT: Planning Commission Recommendation on Development Code Docket Item A-24,
Emergency Housing Ordinance**

Dear Commissioners,

The Thurston County Planning Commission has completed their review of 2022-2023 Official Development Code Docket Item # A-24, the Emergency Housing Ordinance. This docket item is a board-initiated request to consider making interim regulations that allow permitting criteria flexibility within the Homeless Encampments Chapters (20.35, 21.64, 22.51, 23.45 TCC) permanent, as well as make additional change to clarify the application and permitting process of homeless encampments for the public, permitting staff, and applicants.

The Planning Commission held work sessions to review the proposed amendments on November 17, 2021 and July 6, July 20, August 17, and September 7 of 2022. A public hearing was held on August 17, 2022 and no public comment was received. Following the public hearing in post-hearing work sessions on August 17 and September 7, 2022 the Planning Commission discussed additional changes.

After discussions, the Planning Commission made the following additional changes, which are reflected in the Planning Commission recommendation draft attached herein:

- Make the public informational meeting a requirement even during a homelessness emergency,
- Limit the maximum number of residents permitted in an encampment with an emergency waiver to a 100% increase,
- Make the prohibition on alcohol discretionary and left to the sponsoring agency,
- Recommend that sponsoring agencies provide safe storage for weapons, and
- Require that waiver or modification of the general liability insurance requirement first undergo review and concurrence by Thurston County Risk Management.

Following discussion and direction on the above changes to the draft, the Planning Commission produced a recommendation on 2022-2023 Development Code Docket Item #A-24, Emergency Housing Ordinance:

The Planning Commission recommends 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.

On September 7, 2022, the Planning Commission voted a majority in favor (7-1, 1 absent) of the attached recommended draft.

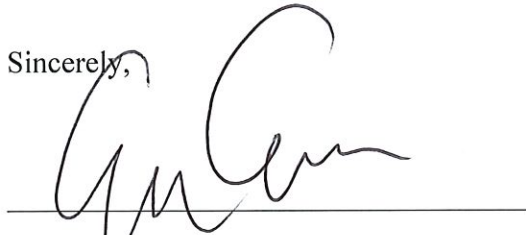
In formulating its recommendation, the Planning Commission has considered the requirements in the Growth Management Act under RCW 36.70A and WAC 365-196, Thurston County's County Wide Planning Policies as amended, other applicable state laws, public testimony, and local circumstances. The Planning Commission recommends approval with the following findings of fact.

Findings:

1. The proposed amendments are consistent with the Growth Management Act 36.70A RCW.
2. The proposed amendments are consistent with the Thurston County County-Wide Planning Policies.
3. The Thurston County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on August 17, 2022 as required by Thurston County Code Chapter 2.05 Growth Management Public Participation.
4. Changes included in the Planning Commission recommended draft will be subject to public comment and a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners.

Thank you for the opportunity to review proposed amendments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Casino', is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Casino, Chair

Attachment: Planning Commission Recommended Code Amendments - Titles 20, 21, 22 and 23 TCC

CC: Thurston County Planning Commission Members
Ramiro Chavez, County Manager
Joshua Cummings, Director
Travis Burns, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney