

RESOLUTION NO. R-2020-_____

A RESOLUTION extending the date of the temporary emergency cold weather shelters to accommodate shelters while the City of Yakima and State of Washington are under stay home orders from the Yakima Health District and Washington State Governor's Office.

WHEREAS, the City Council previously authorized temporary emergency homeless shelters during the cold weather periods under Resolution No. R-2019-094; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yakima City Council ratified the Mayor's emergency declaration on March 13, 2020, the Yakima Health District issued a Stay at Home Order on March 22, 2020, and Governor Jay Inslee issued a Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order on March 23, 2020 to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yakima, in conjunction with religious organizations, non-profit service providers, and Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, is aware that there is within the City of Yakima a population of homeless persons who may require temporary emergency shelter during this time; and

WHEREAS, owners of various buildings, which may include churches or buildings owned or controlled by religious organizations, located within the City of Yakima have indicated that they are willing and able to provide temporary emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yakima currently has no municipal code provisions, whether under the zoning, buildings, fire or other codes, expressly allowing, authorizing, or regulating the use of such buildings as temporary emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.915 may apply to emergency winter shelters if owned or controlled by a religious organization; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yakima Department of Community Development has endeavored to create interim policy guidelines to address and regulate temporary emergency shelters and health and safety issues that may arise in their operation; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this Resolution, Rod's House seeks to house youth experiencing homelessness at Dad's Church, which has been identified and confirmed as a building where temporary homeless shelter facilities may be located by City staff; and

WHEREAS, the Yakima City Council finds and determines that it is in the public interest, and the best interest of the City and its residents, to adopt the resolution and policy guidelines set forth herein; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YAKIMA:

The temporary period for emergency shelter authorized under Resolution R-2019-094 shall be extended. Temporary emergency shelters may operate until either the Yakima Health District Stay Home Order is lifted, or when Governor Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order is lifted, whichever is later.

All other provisions of R-2019-094 shall remain in effect during the extended period.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 7th day of April, 2020.

Patricia Byers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sonya Claar Tee, City Clerk