



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**  
**129 North Second Street**  
**City Hall, Yakima, Washington 98901**  
**Phone (509) 575-6040**

March 25, 2020

Mr. Josh Jackson  
Executive Director, Rod's House  
204 South Naches Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98901  
And Via Email: [joshua@rodshouse.org](mailto:joshua@rodshouse.org)

Re: Extension of R-2019-094—temporary homeless shelters

Dear Josh:

The City received your request to extend the extreme winter weather temporary homeless shelter for Rod's House to accommodate the emergency that the community, and the world, is experiencing with coronavirus. In addition to the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council on March 13, 2020, both the Yakima Health District and the Washington State Governor have issued stay home orders indicating that people should stay home to avoid contact and slow the spread of the disease. I know this creates a challenge for you and the young adults that you serve.

Resolution R-2019-094 authorized temporary homeless shelters through March 31, 2020, due to extreme weather. I am extending this resolution, and its requirements, through April 7, 2020, to avoid a lapse in shelter during this pandemic. My decision is based on the City's emergency declaration and the orders issued by the Governor and Health District. City staff will present a resolution extending R-2019-094, and its requirements, through the end of the stay home orders (both the Yakima Health District and State orders) to allow Rod's House to operate a temporary emergency homeless shelter during that specific time period.

My understanding is that you have already been in contact with the Yakima Codes Division and the proposed location at Dad's House Church has gone through a fire and life safety inspection. The City is thankful that organizations like yours are working to stop the spread of the virus and providing young adults in need of shelter a place to spend their time and avoid contact which could spread the virus and create an even greater public health emergency.

I have included a copy of R-2019-094 for your reference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Alex Meyerhoff  
Interim City Manager

Encl.

## **RESOLUTION NO. R-2019-094**

**A RESOLUTION** authorizing and directing the Yakima Department of Community Development to identify and implement a policy regarding temporary emergency cold weather shelters in the City of Yakima, and providing that such policy shall be valid only from November 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the City of Yakima, in conjunction with religious organizations, non-profit service providers, and Yakima County, is aware that there is within the City of Yakima a population of homeless persons who may require temporary emergency shelter from cold weather during the winter months, 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, one specific building has been identified and confirmed as a building where temporary homeless shelter facilities may be located at 511 N 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and it is possible additional emergency shelter locations may be identified prior to March 31, 2020, 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 City of Yakima Department of Community Development is hereby authorized and directed to implement the policies listed herein and require all operators of temporary emergency shelters during the winter period to provide application materials as attached hereto. Policies shall include the following, and must be certified by the owner or legal occupier of each building:

- 1 Sleeping areas shall be located on the ground floor of the building or on other floors with approved exiting,
- 2 Smoke detectors shall be located in all sleeping areas and connected to a central station monitor;
- 3 No cooking is allowed on the premises, unless done in an approved commercial kitchen by approved staff;

4. The on-site staff ratio shall be one staff member per eight overnight guests,
5. If there is no adequate fire suppression system, staff members must remain awake and alert throughout the night, serving as a night fire watch,
6. The owner or legal occupier of the building shall provide a floor plan showing the dimensions of the building, including exits and door swing, more than 72 hours before the first night of occupation,
7. Organizations not falling under RCW 35 21 915 shall provide proof of adequate insurance, and
8. Any other health and safety requirements determined necessary by the fire marshal or building code officials based on the proposed building(s) to be used as temporary homeless shelters under this resolution
9. All entities wishing to operate a temporary emergency shelter shall fully fill out and submit an application, with all necessary accompanying documents, which must be approved before the shelter can open

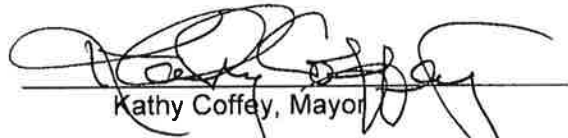
This policy does not apply to the Lease Agreement for the temporary homeless encampment entered into between the City and Sunrise Outreach

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019

ATTEST

  
Sonya Claar Tee, City Clerk



  
Kathy Coffey, Mayor