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CITY OF SPOKANE
EXECUTIVE ORDER

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

EO 2024-0004
LGL 2024-0008

TITLE: EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR WRITTEN FINDING OF EMERGENCY TO AWARD NECESSARY CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY WARMING SHELTERS AND RELATED SERVICES IN THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO PROVIDE HEALTHY SHELTERING ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 11, 2024

REVISION DATE IF APPLICABLE:

Factual Background Information of Finding of Emergency to Support Execution of Agreements to provide for temporary expansion of warming centers services for homeless individuals and families:

WHEREAS; Chapter 18.05 of the Spokane Municipal Code provides that the City will provide housing for homeless individuals during inclement weather conditions, including extreme cold conditions; and

WHEREAS; SMC 18.05.020 A.1., regarding the activation criteria for warming centers, provides in part that:

Warming centers sufficient to meet the shelter needs of currently unsheltered homeless individuals and other vulnerable individuals seeking shelter in Spokane will be activated on each day during which the temperature is predicted by the National Weather Service to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower and designated low-barrier shelter space was at ninety percent (90%) capacity or greater during the previous night. The warming centers will operate at a minimum during the hours that temperatures are lower than thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit. The City may, by contract with its center provider(s), raise the activation temperature for warming centers, but in no event will the activation temperature be lower than thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit.

WHEREAS, the forecast from the National Weather Service provides for frigid temperatures reaching below zero beginning Thursday, January 11, 2024, through Sunday, January 14, 2024, with temperatures reaching below 32 degrees Fahrenheit through Saturday, January 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the wind chill factor will bring temperatures even lower during those time periods; and

WHEREAS, as the temperature has decreased, the facilities providing low-barrier housing for homeless individuals have dropped below ninety (90) percent capacity; and

WHEREAS; it is estimated that the conditions including lower temperatures and limited available shelter space are likely to persist for approximately the next two weeks; and

WHEREAS, SMC 2.04.0030 A provides that:

Whenever a civil emergency, or the imminent threat thereof, occurs in the City and results in, or threatens to result in the death or injury of persons or the destruction of or damage to property to such extent as to require, in the judgment of the mayor, extraordinary and immediate measures to protect the public peace, safety and welfare, the mayor shall forthwith proclaim in writing the existence of a civil emergency, including in the proclamation a brief description of the facts constituting the civil emergency.

WHEREAS; City staff has identified that the safest and least expensive method to provide adequate emergency shelter for individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness but are not able to be housed in existing facilities is to expand homeless shelter services, including warming centers and providing transportation for those who are unable to travel to the shelters or warming centers; and

WHEREAS; staff in the NHHS Department contacted four providers who are currently able to assist the City to provide expanded homeless services and has identified one who can assist in the operation of the City's Cannon Street Shelter as an overnight warming center; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.06.180 of the Spokane Municipal Code provides that if an emergency requires procurement prior to City Council action, the Mayor may declare an emergency and award necessary contracts or agreements to address the emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is prepared to immediately execute the appropriate contracts with several service agencies to provide the necessary services.

NOW THEREFORE, AS THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE WASHINGTON,
I DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 – Purpose and Intent.

As a result of pending cold front, frigid windchill, estimated decrease in night-time temperatures and severe cold weather conditions over the next two weeks, the lack of adequate low-barrier homeless shelter and the requirements of SMC Section 18.05.020, an emergency situation exists and the public safety and health of those who are unhoused necessitates the execution of contracts with available service providers to provide services to expand available homeless shelter space and warming centers and to operate the City's Cannon Street Shelter.

Section 2 – Declaration of Emergency

Pursuant to SMC 2.04.030, a declaration of emergency is issued due to the immediate threat of severe weather conditions that threaten to result in death or injury to persons which requires extraordinary and immediate measures to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Section 2 – Emergency Procurement.

Pursuant to SMC 7.06.180, the Mayor or her designate, may make emergency procurements consistent with the provisions of Chapter 7.06 SMC and may execute such contracts and/or other agreements as are necessary to provide for the expansion of low-barrier homeless shelters and warming centers, including the operation of the City's Cannon Street Shelter as an emergency temporary warming shelter, including without limitation agreements providing for operation of the warming shelter, portable sanitary services, and for food services, all of which shall be emergency procurement.

Section 3 – Effective Date.

This Declaration shall be in full force and effect upon signature and shall continue until terminated.

Section 4– Ratification.

This emergency declaration shall be submitted to the City Council for ratification pursuant to SMC 2.04.060.

Dated this 11th day of January 2024.

Lisa Brown
Mayor Lisa Brown

Attest:

Jenni Hgsto
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Michael P. Pardo
City Attorney

Date of Publication: _____

Effective Date: 11/11/2024

