Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON HOSTING TENT CITY III.

Written by Health Services Class 572: Lauren Applewood, Chami Arachchi, Emiko Atherton, Noah Barclay-Derman, Shelan Debesai, Sage Emry-Smith, Richa Kumar, Odile Lallemand, Tracy Lantow, Marisa Laufer, Jamie Lee, Shannon Marsh, Maggie Milcarek, Jessica Nguyen, Kathlyn Paananen, Abigail Pearl, David Smolker, Amanda Wysocki.

Co-sponsored by: Shawn Mincer (Social Work), Ian Cairns (Law), Dana Little (Law), Hande Ayan (Public Affairs), Rebecca Bartlein (Global Health) and Robert Baker-White (Public Health: Health Services).

Resolution Number: 11.08-09

Sponsored by: Shannon Marsh, School of Public Affairs

WHEREAS a resolution in support of the University of Washington hosting Tent City passed 03/01/05 by the Associated Students of the University of Washington (R-11-25); and

WHEREAS the 2008 One Night Count of people who are homeless in King County found 8,439 people who were homeless in our region, a 15% increase from the 2007 count; and,

WHEREAS of those 8,439 homeless persons, 5,808 people were living in shelters and transitional programs and 2,631 people surviving outside without shelter and of those outside without shelter 1,976 of them were in Seattle; and,

WHEREAS according to the 2009 One Night Count of unsheltered homeless people in King County, 2,827 people were surviving on the streets without shelter with a significant 68% increase of unsheltered homeless persons in South King County; and,

WHEREAS according to a 2007 King County report, 30% of the single individuals who were homeless were women and at least 1,000 of the people who used homeless services were children and veterans and people of color were overrepresented among those who were homeless; and,

WHEREAS throughout King County only 32.4% of rental housing is affordable for low-income families. Only 12.6% of rental housing in Bothell is affordable, and 9% of rental housing in Kirkland; and,

WHEREAS Tent City III offers a temporary fix to the problem of homelessness here in King County by providing temporary housing to those without housing for a minimal cost; and,
WHEREAS an August 2004 report made by the Citizens' Advisory Commission on
Homeless Encampments (CACHE) to King County officials said that tent cities are a
necessary, yet temporary fix to the greater problem of homelessness that King County has
not yet fully addressed; and,

WHEREAS Seattle University hosted Tent City III in February 2005; and,

WHEREAS Tent City III has moved 35 times since 2000 to different host places; and,

WHEREAS Tent City III is currently staying at Cherry Hill Baptist Church; and,

WHEREAS Tent City III will soon need a new host to allow them use of land on which
to live for a period of time not to exceed 90 days; and,

WHEREAS as students at a major public university located inside of King County within
the greater state of Washington, we are intimately involved with the problems of poverty
and homelessness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, in an effort to promote social justice and community outreach, the graduate and
professional students of the University of Washington support the university in hosting
Tent City III for a period of time between 30 and 90 days; and,

THAT the decision on where to locate Tent City should involve significant student input
from across the campus community; and,

THAT, in an effort to provide sustainable solutions, the graduate and professional
students of the University of Washington should consider renewing Tent City III’s visit
annually as the city’s Consent Decree allows; and,

THAT students, faculty and staff at the University of Washington be encouraged to
investigate possibilities of mutually beneficial educational opportunities for students and
Tent City III residents such as a version of UW’s Access program.

Presented to GPSS for approval on February 20, 2009
Approved on April 29, 2009