WHEREAS access to shelter is a fundamental human right and should be facilitated by any society that claims to care for the welfare of its members; and

WHEREAS Mayor Ed Murray signed a Proclamation of Civil Emergency and Executive Constantine signed a Local Proclamation of Emergency in November 2015 to address the growing homelessness crisis in the Seattle metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS Seattle City Councilmembers recognize that additional outreach, mental health services, and shelter are vital to reduce the long term problem of homelessness; and

WHEREAS according to a King County Survey, an estimated 10,047 people are homeless on any given night in 2015; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the annual One Night Count found 4,505 sleeping outside without shelter in Seattle, a 19% increase from 2015; and

WHEREAS over 7,000 people in King County are faced with finding shelter night after night, or are on waiting lists for transitional housing programs; and

WHEREAS on a single night in 2012 at least 214 children and 152 adults looking for shelter were turned away; and

WHEREAS less than 5% of all apartments in King County are affordable to households earning less than 30% of median income ($26,400 for a family of four); and

WHEREAS Tent City III offers a temporary fix to the problem of homelessness in King County by providing temporary housing to those without shelter for a minimal cost; and

WHEREAS Tent City III is part of King County’s largest shelter network, which is organized by

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2 http://www.homelessinfo.org/what_we_do/one_night_count/2015_results.php
3 http://homelessinfo.org/what_we_do/one_night_count/2016_results.php
4 http://www.homelessinfo.org/what_we_do/one_night_count/2015_results.php
the Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE) and Women's Housing Equality and
Enhancement (WHEEL); and

WHEREAS Tent City III provides basic services for up to 100 residents, which includes access
to lavatories with adjacent handwashing stations, dumpsters, storage lockers, and a calendar of
hot meals; and

WHEREAS Tent City III conducts background checks on incoming residents, organizes an
executive committee that is responsible for security on site, and coordinates with local police to
prepare for potential issues; and

WHEREAS Seattle King County Public Health provides onsite consulting to discuss
maintenance and operations of facilities, and access to nurses that administer first aid kits and
community health resource information; and

WHEREAS the Emergency Task Force on Unsheltered Homelessness recommended in its
December 2014 report that the City of Seattle permit camps to be located on public land or
privately-owned, non-religious property; and

WHEREAS in March 2015 the Seattle City Council authorized up to three new homeless
encampments for 100 people each on private property or city land, including the University of
Washington; and

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

WHEREAS Seattle Pacific University hosted Tent City III between January 2012 - March 2012
and December 2014 - March 2015; and

WHEREAS Tent City III has moved 75+ times in its 15 year history; and

WHEREAS Tent City III is currently located at Riverton Park United Methodist Church, Seattle,
WA; and

WHEREAS Tent City III is reaching out to new host sites to allow them use of land on which to
live for a period of time to not exceed 90 days; and

WHEREAS students at the University of Washington interact with the homeless community
daily on “The Ave” (University Way NE); and

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7 http://www.sharewheel.org/tent-city-f-a-q-s
Homelessness-Recommendations-to-Mayor-Murray.pdf
9 http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-city-council-clears-way-for-3-new-homeless-
camps/
10 https://spu.edu/events/tent-city/faq.asp
11 http://www.sharewheel.org/tent-city-3
WHEREAS Session 15 of the ASUW Board of Directors approved a similar resolution (R-22-18) on December 2015 in support of hosting Tent City III; and

WHEREAS students firmly believe that both parties may acquire significant benefits through this partnership; and

WHEREAS the Tent City Collective will gauge the various UW campus stakeholders interest for hosting Tent City III by administering a survey through departmental, course and registered student organization websites; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS believes that the University should host Tent City III during the Winter of 2016-2017, for a period of time up to 90 days in an effort to support social justice and community outreach; and

THAT the GPSS believes the decision on where to locate Tent City III, if it is hosted on campus, should involve significant student input from across the campus community; and

THAT the GPSS believes that logistical planning of Tent City III should be assigned to a coalition representing various campus stakeholders and should involve significant student input; and

THAT the GPSS believes that Tent City III should work with landscape architects to look into potential sites around UW where at least 10,000 square feet of land is available; and

THAT the GPSS believes that the potential site should be located close to water and electrical utilities, public transportation sites, and road access for proper lavatory access and waste disposal; and

THAT the GPSS believes that the potential site should be placed on lawns where encampment damage due to water runoff will be minimal; and

THAT the GPSS believes that Tent City III should acquire funding from private donors as well as the City of Seattle; and

THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to UW President Ana Mari Cauce, Vice President of Student Life Denzil Suite, ASUW Director of University Affairs Roy Taylor, Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ed Taylor, UW Board of Regents, Director of Transportation Services Josh Kavanagh, Facilities Maintenance and Construction Director Damon Fetter, Interim Vice President for Minority Affairs Dr. Gabriel Gallardo, Mayor Ed Murray, and SGSU President Mallory Barnes.

Presented to GPSS for approval on February 10, 2016
Approved on February 10, 2016