

1 Title: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**
2 **HOSTING TENT CITY III**

3
4 Sponsored by: Justin Bare (Computer Science and Engineering)

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6 Written by: Justin Bare (Computer Science and Engineering)

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8 Resolution Number: 05. 15-16

9
10 WHEREAS access to shelter is a fundamental human right and should be facilitated by any
11 society that claims to care for the welfare of its members; and

12
13 WHEREAS Mayor Ed Murray signed a Proclamation of Civil Emergency and Executive
14 Constantine signed a Local Proclamation of Emergency in November 2015 to address the
15 growing homelessness crisis in the Seattle metropolitan area; and

16
17 WHEREAS Seattle City Councilmembers recognize that additional outreach, mental health
18 services, and shelter are vital to reduce the long term problem of homelessness¹; and

19
20 WHEREAS according to a King County Survey, an estimated 10,047 people are homeless on
21 any given night in 2015²; and

22
23 WHEREAS in 2016 the annual One Night Count found 4,505 sleeping outside without shelter in
24 Seattle, a 19% increase from 2015³; and

25
26 WHEREAS over 7,000 people in King County are faced with finding shelter night after night, or
27 are on waiting lists for transitional housing programs⁴; and

28
29 WHEREAS on a single night in 2012 at least 214 children and 152 adults looking for shelter
30 were turned away⁵; and

31
32 WHEREAS less than 5% of all apartments in King County are affordable to households earning
33 less than 30% of median income (\$26,400 for a family of four)⁶; and

34
35 WHEREAS Tent City III offers a temporary fix to the problem of homelessness in King County
36 by providing temporary housing to those without shelter for a minimal cost; and

37
38 WHEREAS Tent City III is part of King County's largest shelter network, which is organized by

¹<http://murray.seattle.gov/murray-constantine-city-council-declare-emergency-announce-new-investments-to-respond-to-homelessness/#sthash.3WOBXnhJ.dpbs>

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

⁵ http://www.homelessinfo.org/resources/publications/FTAS/2012-SKCCH-FTAS-Summary-2012_0718.pdf

⁶<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OFE/AboutTheLevy/EarlyLearning/SeattleCommunityNeedsAssessment2014byJMA082514.pdf>

39 the Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE) and Women's Housing Equality and
40 Enhancement (WHEEL); and
41
42 WHEREAS Tent City III provides basic services for up to 100 residents, which includes access
43 to lavatories with adjacent handwashing stations, dumpsters, storage lockers, and a calendar of
44 hot meals; and
45
46 WHEREAS Tent City III conducts background checks on incoming residents, organizes an
47 executive committee that is responsible for security on site, and coordinates with local police to
48 prepare for potential issues; and
49
50 WHEREAS Seattle King County Public Health provides onsite consulting to discuss
51 maintenance and operations of facilities, and access to nurses that administer first aid kits and
52 community health resource information⁷; and
53
54 WHEREAS the Emergency Task Force on Unsheltered Homelessness recommended in its
55 December 2014 report that the City of Seattle permit camps to be located on public land or
56 privately-owned, non-religious property⁸; and
57
58 WHEREAS in March 2015 the Seattle City Council authorized up to three new homeless
59 encampments for 100 people each on private property or city land, including the University of
60 Washington⁹; and
61
62 WHEREAS Seattle University hosted Tent City III in February 2005; and
63
64 WHEREAS Seattle Pacific University hosted Tent City III between January 2012 - March 2012
65 and December 2014 - March 2015¹⁰; and
66
67 WHEREAS Tent City III has moved 75+ times in its 15 year history; and
68
69 WHEREAS Tent City III is currently located at Riverton Park United Methodist Church, Seattle,
70 WA¹¹; and
71
72 WHEREAS Tent City III is reaching out to new host sites to allow them use of land on which to
73 live for a period of time to not exceed 90 days; and
74
75 WHEREAS students at the University of Washington interact with the homeless community
76 daily on “The Ave” (University Way NE); and
77

⁷ <http://www.sharewheel.org/tent-city-f-a-q-s>

⁸ <http://murray.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Emergency-Task-Force-On-Unsheltered-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>

78 WHEREAS Session 15 of the ASUW Board of Directors approved a similar resolution (R-22-
79 18) on December 2015 in support of hosting Tent City III; and
80

81 WHEREAS students firmly believe that both parties may acquire significant benefits through
82 this partnership; and
83

84 WHEREAS the Tent City Collective will gauge the various UW campus stakeholders interest for
85 hosting Tent City III by administering a survey through departmental, course and registered
86 student organization websites; now
87

88 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
89 SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:
90

91 THAT the GPSS believes that the University should host Tent City III during the Winter of
92 2016-2017, for a period of time up to 90 days in an effort to support social justice and
93 community outreach; and
94

95 THAT the GPSS believes the decision on where to locate Tent City III, if it is hosted on campus,
96 should involve significant student input from across the campus community; and
97

98 THAT the GPSS believes that logistical planning of Tent City III should be assigned to a
99 coalition representing various campus stakeholders and should involve significant student input;
100 and
101

102 THAT the GPSS believes that Tent City III should work with landscape architects to look into
103 potential sites around UW where at least 10,000 square feet of land is available; and
104

105 THAT the GPSS believes that the potential site should be located close to water and electrical
106 utilities, public transportation sites, and road access for proper lavatory access and waste
107 disposal; and
108

109 THAT the GPSS believes that the potential site should be placed on lawns where encampment
110 damage due to water runoff will be minimal; and
111

112 THAT the GPSS believes that Tent City III should acquire funding from private donors as well
113 as the City of Seattle; and
114

115 THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to UW President Ana Mari Cauce, Vice President
116 of Student Life Denzil Suite, ASUW Director of University Affairs Roy Taylor, Dean of
117 Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ed Taylor, UW Board of Regents, Director of Transportation
118 Services Josh Kavanagh, Facilities Maintenance and Construction Director Damon Fetter,
119 Interim Vice President for Minority Affairs Dr. Gabriel Gallardo, Mayor Ed Murray, and SGSU
120 President Mallory Barnes.
121

122 *Presented to GPSS for approval on February 10, 2016*

123 *Approved on February 10, 2016*