

EMERGENCY ORDER
IN AND FOR THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

No. 2023-02

– Homelessness –

**REGARDING FINANCIAL AND BUDGET AUTHORITY OF
THE VANCOUVER CITY MANAGER**

WHEREAS, at 9:05 hours on November 3, 2023, the City of Vancouver declared a civil emergency pursuant to Washington State Constitution Article VI, Section 11, Revised Code of Washington Chapter 38.52, and Vancouver Municipal Code Chapter 2.12 *et. seq.*, due to the public health threat posed by homelessness. (Declaration of Civil Emergency No. 2023-01); and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Commerce (DOC) have observed that numerous financial challenges contribute to homelessness within Washington State, including lost income from illness or injury, the loss of a job, and high costs of health insurance,¹ the unavailability of affordable housing and high rental rates;² and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Services Office of Community Planning and Development (“HUD”) has found that between 2020 and 2022, Washington State experienced the fourth largest increase in homelessness in the nation (15.6%);³ and

WHEREAS, despite aggressive efforts to increase the available supply of affordable housing, reduce incidents of homelessness, and mitigate the adverse impacts of homelessness, the incidents of homelessness within the City of Vancouver have surpassed Washington State averages as described more fully within City of Vancouver Declaration of Emergency 2023-01, a copy of which is incorporated by this reference as if set forth fully herein; and

¹ 2018 Washington State Dept. of Health Annual report, p.191, retrieved 11/3/2023 at:
https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/1000/2018SHA_FullReport.pdf?uid=653b039c715fb

² 2019 Washington State Dept. of Commerce Annual Report, retrieved 11/3/2023 at:
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Homelessness-in-Washington-State_final.pdf

³ The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress can be found at:
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2022-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

WHEREAS, in consultation with the City of Vancouver Homeless Response Manager and the Clark County Department of Public Health, the City has determined that homelessness has threatened, and continues to threaten, the lives of residents of the City of Vancouver, and the real property occupied by those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and that extraordinary and immediate measures are necessary to direct roles and responsibilities in coordinating emergency activities citywide and take other steps as allowed by law to protect the public peace, safety and welfare of residents of the City of Vancouver; and

WHEREAS, in view of the numerous financial factors that cause, contribute to, and perpetuate the cycle of homelessness, the City finds that allocation of financial resources will be necessary in order to address the humanitarian crisis and public health emergency of homelessness that exists within the City of Vancouver.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT:

As a result of the above-referenced situation, pursuant to Washington State Constitution Article VI, Section 11, Revised Code of Washington Chapter 38.52, and Vancouver Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, I hereby Order that a state of emergency continues to exist in the City of Vancouver, and that Emergency Order No. 2023-01 remains in full force and effect.

FURTHERMORE, based on the above situation and pursuant to Vancouver Municipal Code Chapter 2.12, the City hereby issue the following additional Emergency Orders:

Section 1. Acceptance of Donations. For the duration of this Emergency Order, the Vancouver City Manager shall have the authority to accept and receive on behalf of the City from any person, firm, or corporation offers of services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan, for the purposes of emergency management, subject to the terms of the offer.

Section 2. Emergency Budget Authority. For the duration of this Emergency Order, the Vancouver City Manager shall have the authority to increase the City budget to access the City's emergency reserve fund.

Section 3. Contracting and Procurement Authority. The City Manager is hereby authorized to make emergency procurements of goods and services deemed necessary to address this emergency consistent with the provisions of Vancouver Municipal Code Section 3.05.030, in an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per transaction; and

Section 4. Severability. If any section or provision of this emergency order should be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Emergency Order shall remain in full force and effect for the duration specified herein.

Section 5. Duration. Unless modified, extended or terminated by the Vancouver City Council or Vancouver City Manager, this Emergency Order is hereby effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the state of emergency is declared terminated as per VMC 2.12.030.

SIGNED in Vancouver, Washington, this 3rd, day of November, 2023, at 9:05 hours in the absence of the Vancouver City Council, subject to City Council ratification, confirmation, modification or rejection as soon as practicable.

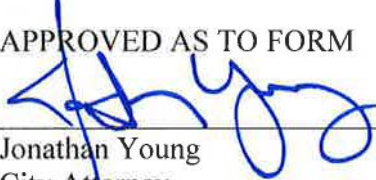
ATTEST:



Natasha Ramras
City Clerk

CITY OF VANCOUVER


Eric Holmes
City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Jonathan Young
City Attorney