



Office of the Mayor
City of Tukwila, Washington
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) chapter 38.52 authorizes the Mayor to exercise emergency powers; and

WHEREAS, Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) Section 2.57.030(1) empowers the Mayor to proclaim a state of emergency when an incident, whether natural or man-made, requires immediate responsive action to protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, during the past 10 months, over 200 asylees have arrived at the Riverton Park United Methodist Church ("RPUMC") in Tukwila seeking shelter, food, clothing, and social services; and

WHEREAS, the RPUMC has created shelter space inside of its sanctuary, as well as established a tent encampment on the RPUMC grounds; and

WHEREAS, the RPUMC has expressed concerns to the City and other elected officials at the county, state, and federal levels that the RPUMC facility is at or beyond its capacity due to the influx of new asylees, and it is becoming increasingly challenging to meet the needs of the people, including children and infants, seeking asylum; and

WHEREAS, the RPUMC has expressed the same concerns to numerous non-profit organizations associated with disadvantaged and homelessness within King County that the RPUMC facility is at or beyond its capacity, with responses back that the non-profit organizations also are at full capacity; and

WHEREAS, the situation at the RPUMC constitutes a humanitarian crisis where the need for resources for safe sanitary shelter is acute and beyond the capabilities of Tukwila itself to manage; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to assist in the coordination of resources and support to the RPUMC, and it is believed a formal proclamation of emergency allows additional resources to flow to the RPUMC and the City to resolve this crisis in a more expeditious manner; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2023, the City participated in the Riverton Park Asylee Roundtable to discuss the situation at the RPUMC, and representatives from several non-profit service providers attended, along with representatives of the following government agencies:

United States Senators and Representatives

Governor's Office

Washington State Department of Commerce

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

State Senators and Representatives

King County Council

Seattle-King County Public Health

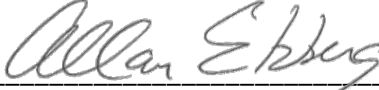
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Seattle Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tukwila seeks the cooperation and assistance of county, state, and federal partners to help makes fund and resources available immediately to address this growing crisis;

THEREFORE, I, Allan Ekberg, Mayor of the City of Tukwila, do hereby proclaim a state of emergency within the City of Tukwila at the RPUMC; and that during the existence of said emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Management and the emergency organization of this city shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this City. Said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Mayor of the City of Tukwila, State of Washington.

Presented this 6th day of October, 2023.


Allan Ekberg, Mayor