



Dear members of the community,

Thank you for writing about tent encampments on City-owned property. We wanted to provide an update on the process to site a sanctioned-encampment in the Ballard neighborhood.

City staff have been working for the last three months with members of the Ballard community to locate a viable alternative to the originally proposed encampment site at 2826 NW Market Street. A number of stakeholders came to the table – including members of the Ballard Chamber, residents, local faith leaders, and homeless advocates – to discuss the viability of six alternative sites, which included City-owned properties, those owned by other governmental agencies, and privately-owned sites in the Ballard neighborhood. We spent a number of weeks researching and analyzing these sites for possible use within the parameters of the encampment legislation passed earlier this year. However, after a thorough analysis, we have determined that the sites were either not available for encampment use or did not meet code requirements.

As we have begun to experience the fall and winter months, it is vital that we provide those experiencing homelessness with safe, secure places to stay as soon as possible. Due to the great need in our streets, we will move forward with siting an encampment at the Market Street location. We know that some members of the community have expressed concerns about the use of the Market Street site, but we ask for support to the people who will be living there.

While transitional encampments are not a long-term solution, we have created a model for encampment management that offers clear points of contact, operation expectations and standards, and more effective assistance for individuals to exit homelessness. This model will help us create more positive outcomes for both residents of transitional encampments and the communities supporting them. For more information about the process and encampment requirements, which include City supports for case management and sanitation services, please visit the [Sanctioned Encampment Siting FAQ](#) and the related [Director's Rule on encampments](#).

We must address the growing crisis of homelessness that affects not only Seattle, but our region, state, and country. Responding to this issue will require the shared support, responsibility, and compassion of us all. While tent encampments are not a solution to the crisis of homelessness, they are one measure that we must take to address the need of those living on our streets while we continue our work to ensure that the significant investments we make as a community are having the greatest impact on those in need.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Edward B. Murray, written in a cursive style.

Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle

A blue ink signature of Mike O'Brien, written in a cursive style.

Mike O'Brien
Councilmember, City of Seattle