CIVIL EMERGENCY ORDER

ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS AND VEHICLES USED AS RESIDENCES

CITY OF SEATTLE

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2015, in my capacity as Mayor, I issued a Proclamation of Civil Emergency to address the homelessness crisis in the City of Seattle, as well as three associated Emergency Orders; and

WHEREAS, the facts stated in that Proclamation continue to exist and I am basing this Civil Emergency Order on the information and recitals contained in that Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, even though the City and its partners have taken substantial steps to address the homelessness emergency facing Seattle, both prior to and since the issuance of the Proclamation and Orders in November of 2015, many individuals continue to experience homelessness; and

WHEREAS, this continued emergency requires the issuance of additional orders that are specifically targeted to address certain aspects of the homelessness crisis facing the City of Seattle;

Section I – Encampment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

WHEREAS, as set forth in Ordinance No. 124747, the City's focus on solutions for people who are homeless should be a roof-overhead and services to connect individuals with a pathway toward long-term housing, however, the current capacity of our housing and homeless services continuum cannot meet the needs of all those who are homeless. As an alternative, tent encampments can offer a sense of safety and community while seeking longer term housing options;

WHEREAS, there are more individuals experiencing homelessness, including children and families, than can presently be housed in the two existing encampments; and

WHEREAS, the City must immediately act to create additional space to address the ongoing public safety crisis confronting the city that impacts, on a daily basis, the health and safety of its citizens.

Section II – Parking for Vehicles Utilized As Residences

WHEREAS, as set forth in the Proclamation of Civil Emergency, there have been dramatic cuts at the federal and Washington State levels for affordable housing, while at the same time, housing costs in Seattle and King County have significantly increased with the number of low-income households in Washington State paying more than half their monthly income in rent growing to 221,800 in 2015, a 20% increase since 2007; and

WHEREAS, for these and other systemic reasons, including, but not limited to, institutional racism, poverty, unemployment, discrimination, addiction, mental illness, domestic violence, or

exits from the foster care system, many individuals who cannot afford to rent or own a home have been forced to live out of cars, trucks, vans, and recreational vehicles; and

WHEREAS, implementing a City-authorized parking program under this Order for individuals residing in their vehicles will allow the City to focus outreach services, improve and insure the sanitary conditions and safety of the parking areas, and provide authorized and legal parking options.

WHEREAS, during 2015, more than 66 individuals have died on Seattle streets without shelter, including one victim who fell to his death from a highway overpass;

WHEREAS, the City seeks to provide those struggling with addiction access to services, with nearly 60% increase in the number of heroin and methamphetamine deaths in Seattle since 2003.

Section III – Emergency Orders Issued

WHEREAS, the decisions to declare a civil emergency and to seek civil emergency orders are not taken lightly but are, I believe, extraordinary measures that are necessary to protect the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, this civil emergency necessitates the use of certain emergency powers granted to the Mayor pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code, Chapter 10.02 and RCW Chapter 38.52; and

WHEREAS, the conditions of this Civil Emergency Order are designed to provide the least necessary restriction on the rights of the public; and

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE HONORABLE EDWARD B. MURRAY, THAT:

I, **EDWARD B. MURRAY**, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SEATTLE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 10.02.020, 10.02.025, AND 10.02.030, AND MY MAYORAL PROCLAMATION OF CIVIL EMERGENCY, DATED NOVEMBER 2, 2015 HEREBY ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

1. The City of Seattle shall have the authority to take the following steps concerning parking for vehicles that are presently being used as residences:

2. The City may provide temporary parking permits for vehicles that are presently being used as residences. These permits will allow these vehicles to be parked in designated City owned right-of-ways for up to thirty (30) days.

3. The City may designate two delineated areas as sanctioned safe lots where vehicles that are presently being used as residences may be parked.

4. The City shall have the authority to expeditiously open a third encampment for individuals experiencing homelessness. Notwithstanding the immediate

effectiveness of this authority, this encampment, after being opened, will undergo a full permit review as required by the Seattle Municipal Code § 23.42.056.

SECTION IV

All mayoral proclamations and orders presently in effect shall remain in full force and effect except that, insofar as any provision of any such prior proclamation is inconsistent with any provision of this Order, then the provision of this Order shall control.

SECTION V

A copy of this Civil Emergency Order shall be delivered to the Governor of the State of Washington and to the County Executive of King County. To the extent practicable, a copy of this Civil Emergency Order shall be made available to all news media within the City and to the general public. In order to give the widest dissemination of this Civil Emergency Order to the public, as many other available means as may be practical shall be used, including but not limited to posting on public facilities and public address systems as set forth in SMC 10.02.100.

SECTION VI

This Civil Emergency Order shall immediately or as soon as practical be filed with the City Clerk for presentation to the City Council for ratification and confirmation, modification or rejection, and if rejected this Civil Emergency Order shall be void; however, any such rejection or modification shall not affect any actions previously taken. As set forth in SMC 10.02.020(O), if the City Council rejects this Civil Emergency Order, such rejection shall not affect the City's responsibility for any actions taken prior to the rejection of this Civil Emergency Order, including the City's responsibility for the actual costs incurred by those who were ordered by or entered into contracts with the City.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2016, at 9:32 am.

EDWARD B. MURRAY
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE