

TENT CITY TACOMA

Occupy Tacoma, in conjunction with other groups in Tacoma, is sponsoring an effort to establish a tent city in Tacoma, similar to ones that have been established in Portland, Seattle, and a number of other major cities across the country. These self-governed tent cities have cropped up in response to the mounting problem of the climbing number of homeless in our communities. Please help us to make this happen, so that vital services and help can reach those that have been slipping through the cracks for far too long.

Why do we need a tent city in Tacoma?

- At last count there are estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 homeless in the greater Tacoma area.
- There are currently an estimated 500 beds in shelters on any given night in the greater Tacoma area.
- Many homeless are “couch-surfing” or camping
- Tacoma city government has engaged in an encampment elimination initiative, that routinely harasses, threatens, and destroys the possessions of homeless persons.
- Shelters are intolerably restrictive on hours, and some shelters require religious participation to be in the shelter.

Why help the homeless at all?

- Many homeless are just people who got caught in a bad situation and have no way out.
- The homeless are people, just like you. They were just one paycheck away from losing their house or apartment when they were “downsized” or “laid off” and couldn’t find work fast enough to fill the gap.
- There are untapped resources within the homeless community that would be extremely useful to local businesses. Many of these people were carpenters, plumbers, electricians, or were going to school.

How can I help?

- Get the word out to the churches and businesses in your area that there is a plan in the works to get a tent city in Tacoma.
- Contact Occupy Tacoma on their Facebook, website, e-mail, or one of the OT members that you may know to help gather support.
- Research Tent City in Seattle. There are two. Even pay them a visit (they would definitely welcome it)
- Go to city council meetings and talk about how a tent city would benefit Tacoma.
- Help with researching costs of supplies and maintenance for a tent city. Helping with raising funds would not hurt either.



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