



OFFICE OF MAYOR
TED WHEELER

City of Portland

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
LOCAL EMERGENCY)
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND)
DECLARED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2022)

Emergency Declaration to
Address Campsites
in Dangerous Sites Located in
High Crash Transportation Corridors

WHEREAS, 70 percent (19 out of 27) of pedestrian traffic deaths in 2021 were of houseless individuals, according to the 2021 Vision Zero Traffic Crash Report (<https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2022/traffic-crash-report-2021.pdf>); and

WHEREAS, some people experiencing houselessness live in tents, make-shift structures, vehicles and place their encampment near high crash corridors, including state freeways and highways; and

WHEREAS, it is inherently dangerous for people to camp along high crash corridors because many sites do not offer safe pedestrian crossings across what are often higher-speed traffic; and,

WHEREAS, it is inherently dangerous for people to camp along high crash corridors because many sites do not have a safety buffer around them, leaving it possible at some sites for a vehicle to crash into a campsite; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Point in Time Count, 2,037 people were unsheltered and living outside, and it is likely that the economic constraints of the pandemic have exacerbated the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City relies on the Impact Reduction Program (IRP) and other city bureaus to help coordinate interventions for encampments on City owned properties,

rights-of-way within the City of Portland, and state freeways through an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); and

WHEREAS, under Ordinance 190478, the Office of Management and Finance, through its IRP, has authority to prioritize and undertake cleanup of unauthorized camping at City owned and other governmental properties; and

WHEREAS, federal and state rules prohibit camping of any kind on freeways (23 CFR 1.23); in Portland, the federal and state system includes Hwy 26, I-84, I-205, I-405 and I-5; and

WHEREAS, to offer a safer alternative to camping in dangerous, high crash transportation corridors, and to help prevent the need for campers to set up other unsanctioned camps in new locations, with support of Multnomah County, the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), as COVID-related shelter occupancy restrictions are lifted, has agreed to work with service providers to set aside up to 100 shelter beds per day; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to my authority under the Portland City Charter, City Code, and any other applicable law, I hereby Order as follows:

1. **State of Emergency.** A State of Emergency exists throughout the entire City of Portland under Portland City Code Section 15.04 to decrease human suffering and prevent loss of life and injury to people.
2. **Inherently Dangerous Camping Locations.** Effective immediately and for the duration of this State of Emergency, no camping of any kind is allowed within a dangerous proximity, as determined by IRP, of any state or federal highway in Portland or any “High Crash Network Streets and Intersections,” noted on Page 6 of the 2021 Vision Zero Traffic Crash Report. Encampments located at these locations shall be prioritized by IRP for immediate campsite removal.
3. **Notice.** When notifying individuals that they must vacate the campsite, IRP will continue to follow City and State notification and removal protocols, and IRP will endeavor to offer persons impacted by a campsite removal information on available shelter options.
4. **Mayor’s Designee.** IRP will consult with the Mayor’s designee on alternative shelter, supportive housing and housing referral options. The Mayoral designee may direct potential relocation to other City sites that offer safer temporary sheltering locations.
5. **Other Provisions.**

- a. In addition to any other power that may lawfully be exercised by local government, the powers listed in PCC 15.08.020.B are vested in the Mayor.
 - b. For the duration of this emergency, unless otherwise specified by the Mayor, the current bureau assignments to the members of the City Council shall remain in effect as delegated authority under PCC 15.08.020.A.
 - c. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect through 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2022, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.
6. **Severability:** If any provision of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, or their application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the duly exercised authority, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

**Dated this 4th day of February, 2022
City of Portland, Oregon**

By: 

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Robert Taylor, City Attorney
For Portland, Oregon