

# Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



14514 - 20th Avenue Northeast  
Shoreline, Washington 98155  
206-363-8100  
www.princeofpeaceshoreline.com  
Email: pastor@princeofpeaceshoreline.com

January 13, 2017

Mayor Chris Roberts  
City of Shoreline  
17500 Midvale Ave. N.  
Shoreline, WA 98133-4905

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City Manager's Office

Dear Mayor Roberts,

I am writing to express my deep personal concern about the Planning Commission's proposed amendment to the city code concerning Transitional Tent Encampments.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church first hosted Tent City 3, with a temporary use permit from the city of Shoreline, in the spring of 2005. Subsequently, we hosted Tent City 3, with its 100 campers, two more times. Since then, we have opted to exercise our ministry by hosting a winter shelter *inside* our church. The City Council thoughtfully and generously provided us with a grant of \$10,000 to do that very thing in 2017.

But the option remains that our church may once again host either Tent City 3, or the smaller tent encampment, United We Stand. *The Planning Commission's proposed amendment would make that impossible.* We simply do not have the property to host a tent encampment with minimum setbacks of 20 feet from property lines.

As people of faith, we are committed to easing the misery of people experiencing homelessness. We feel strongly about providing security and stability, so that people may get their lives back onto a stable footing and find permanent homes. Acting to bring about change is why we exist as a religious organization in Shoreline. If it were only our own needs that we exist to serve, we wouldn't need to be a church at all.

I hope you will take to heart these problems with the Planning Commission proposal, and redirect the city's code to a nondiscriminatory and constitutionally appropriate solution.

Sincerely,

Rev. Pamela S. Russell  
Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.