



September 3, 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Shoreline Free Methodist Church has been called to help those among us who have fallen on hard times and this has led us to host tent encampments for the unhoused. We done this seven times now over the past couple decades. We have been asked again to host Camp United We Stand from October 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

This camp is limited to thirty-five people and many of the residents are employed and focused on getting housing. It is incorporated as a not-for-profit under Washington state laws. They operate with a set of by-laws and have a Board of Directors composed of camp residents and the greater community. The Board provides oversight to the camp, helps with fund raising and lends additional support where needed. (See their website: [campunitedwestand-tentcity.org](http://campunitedwestand-tentcity.org)).

At **10:00 am on Saturday, September 14, 2024** we will hold a Zoom meeting to discuss plans to host Camp United We Stand. We invite you to attend to learn more about the camp and ask any questions regarding their stay with us. We will inform the City of Shoreline of any concerns brought forward at the meeting.

The link to the September 14 Zoom meeting is on our website ([shorelinefm.com](http://shorelinefm.com)), but here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82149766523?pwd=DTVuaKai2z5byLYQ542heR1EQypPbj.1>

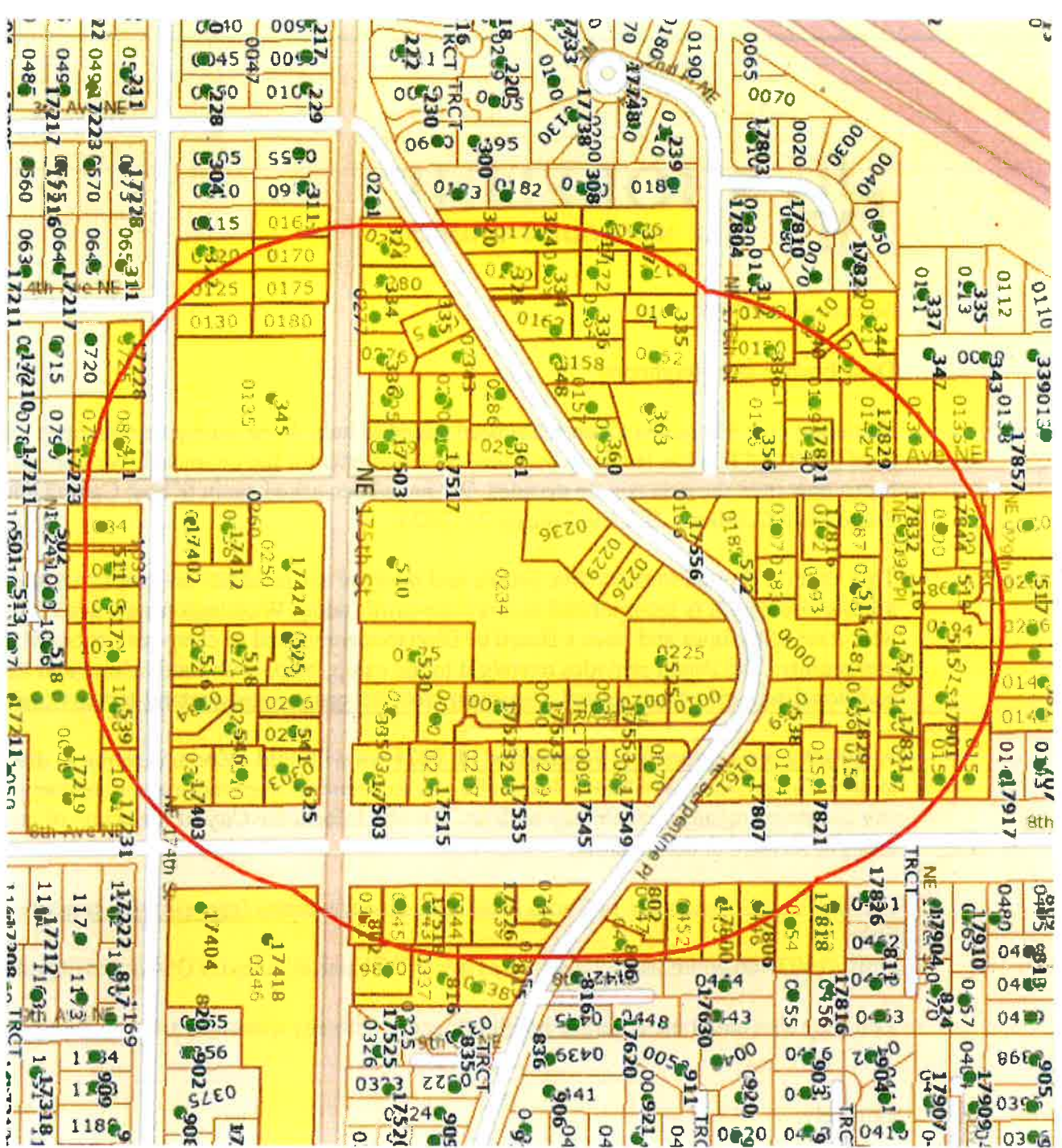
You may also email me at [jeff@shorelinefm.com](mailto:jeff@shorelinefm.com) with any questions and I'm happy to call you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Horton

Pastor on behalf of the Shoreline Free Methodist Board

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September 14, 2024- CUWS Neighborhood zoom meeting; 10am- 10:35am

**Attendees:**

Jeff Horton, Sr Pastor, Shoreline Free Methodist Church; facilitated meeting

SFMC members- Daintry Price, Dee Jacobs, Tamra Patton, Vickie Fortriede and Patrick MacNeil

Neighborhood attendees:

Katie, a mom with a son in a Pre-School Co-op that meets at SFMC.

Entered meeting at 10:15 am and came on with camera to ask questions.

Another person, Christine on an iphone, who remained silent throughout the meeting.

Jeff Horton started the meeting at 10:04am

Pastor explained the SFMC history of hosting the transitional tent encampments. This will be the Seventh time hosting between Tent City III and Camp United We Stand.

Explained from the beginning in 2003, SFMC has worked with the City of Shoreline to secure a Temporary use permit. As well as working with the fire and police to ensure safety.

The permit request is for 90 days with a planned request for extension of 30 days. And CUWS last left our property January 2023.

Jeff brought up the site map and talked about the placement of fencing, portable toilets, dumpsters.

Explained there is one secure entrance, now a trailer for the office.

CUWS runs security around the property. They have a couple of community tents, personal tents and now a portable wood-frame for the kitchen.

Reviewed the CUWS code of conduct- they run background checks; no drugs/alcohol policy; strict adherence and residents can be barred from the camp for using drugs and alcohol.

CUWS is a not-for-profit with a Board of Directors providing additional oversight to CUWS.

Advised people can find out more at the CUWS website.

CUWS holds weekly elections for leadership roles. Residents pay a monthly fee to be a part of CUWS and must participate in daily activities that help run CUWS.

Jeff shared at the recent light rail grand opening he attended, a gentleman recognized the SFMC name and thanked Jeff for helping out CUWS.

Also, the Pre School-Co-op also plans to run a fall drive to support CUWS

Mentioned because CUWS's security office is staffed 24/7, if anyone had questions or concerns during Their time at SFMC, don't hesitate to contact Jeff Horton or go to the security office.

Last call for questions/comments- Katie, a Co-op parent was pleased as a faith community, SFMC was helping CUWS. Wondered if there was preferred "language" to use with her son when talking about CUWS. Jeff and Daintry lent some perspective that for some residents it's a transition to more permanent housing for others, CUWS is their home. Some residents work and some are in school. As of late, there is an aging population, some mental health issues and disabilities.

Meeting ended at 10:35am

Daintry Price prepared these notes

See email exchange from  
Pre-school Camp parent afternoon of 9.14.24

Price, Daintry

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**From:** Daintry Price <dnpsk070@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 4:30 PM  
**To:** Price, Daintry  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Homeless shelter concerns  
**Attachments:** SKM\_C36824091014380.pdf; SKM\_C36824091611270.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jeff Horton <jeffhorton63@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 11:38 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Homeless shelter concerns  
**To:** Daintry Price <dnpsk070@gmail.com>

Just an FYI. Don't know if this should be included in TUP application or not. (Note: the first email is my reply. His name is also Jeff! You'll want to scroll down for his initial message.)

Jeff

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jeff Horton <jeffhorton63@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 16, 2024 at 11:35 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Homeless shelter concerns  
**To:** Jeffrey Dishaw <goodfella2029@yahoo.com>

Hey Jeff -

So sorry for the delay. The weekend got away from me and Sunday, of course, is busy. Know that I am happy to have a face-to-face conversation with you as well if you would like.

In terms of some "easy" answers... No, the camp does not have access to the building. Ever. (Well... they are welcome to attend church on Sunday). They bring in their own porta-potties. The camp is set up on the far end of the parking lot (I'll attach a rough site map for reference).

As far as "self-governing" goes... it just means that they internally monitor their own "code of conduct" (i.e. no drugs/alcohol, etc.). I can attach a copy of an old one I have from 2020. They still have a board of outside community people that meets monthly (Camp United We Stand is its own 501c3 non-profit). If someone breaks the rules, their internally elected "Executive Committee" can step in discipline. That can take the form of a "bar" of a couple days or permanent, depending on the offense. But again, the overseeing board can also step in. Our experience that the "self-governing" actually works pretty well because the camp wants to stay on good terms with the host church so that they might be invited back.

There will not be smoking near the school/playground but I believe smoking is allowed within designated areas of the camp..

Obviously, these are all individual people with their own personalities, backgrounds, etc. And obviously, there are reasons they end up living in these situations, but I think many of the "worst case" scenarios do not end up living in these organized encampments. They just can't function within this level of community. We have never had major problems, and we have hosted an encampment in 2003, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2022.

We don't run the preschool and I can only say that we had very open communication with the preschool director and their board. They have known this has been an every other year or so thing for us since 2013. And they have been very supportive. I'm sorry if this was a surprise.

Thank you for reaching out to me. I fully respect your concerns and your decision, but I really feel that your daughter will be extremely safe. And like I said, I'm happy to talk further if that can be any help. We want to be very transparent and safe.

Sincerely,  
Jeff

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM Jeff Horton <[jeffhorton63@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhorton63@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jeff -

Quick response for now so you know I got your message. I am on my phone and busy in between a few things right now but I will most definitely respond as soon as I am able.

Thank you so much for reaching out and sharing your concerns. We would not do this if we didn't feel confident re: your safety concerns.

Stay tuned, I'll respond shortly.

Jeff

On Sat, Sep 14, 2024 at 3:50 PM Jeffrey Dishaw <[goodfella2029@yahoo.com](mailto:goodfella2029@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Hi Jeff,

My daughter Lily attends the cooperative preschool at the Shoreline free Methodist church. I was working this morning and could not attend the zoom meeting and I have some questions. I'm concerned with the proximity of the camp to the preschool. I'm wondering if there will be any interaction with the people in the shelter and the church/preschool area (like letting them into the building to use bathrooms/clean up, etc). I'm also concerned about the security as I have heard it is self governing. What steps will be made to make sure it is a safe and drug/alcohol free environment? Is there smoking allowed and how close to the school will they be allowed to smoke? I am a transit bus driver and my job involves interacting with homeless people throughout my shift every day. I have seen some things to say the least, so as you can imagine, having a homeless camp near my daughter's preschool raises some big red flags for me. My daughter enjoys the school very much and I'd like to keep her enrolled there, but like I said, I have concerns. I'm also wondering why we weren't notified before preschool enrollment about the encampment? That may have made a difference when making our decision to send our daughter there. Basically, I need to know that if my daughter is to attend the preschool it will be a safe place to attend.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Dishaw

Sent from my iPhone