

## Coogan, Liz J.

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**From:** Linville, Kelli J.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** [laura@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:laura@interfaith-coalition.org)  
**Subject:** Emergency tent camping

Dear Laura Harker at the Interfaith Coalition,

Thank you for talking on the phone with me today and for helping the City of Bellingham with this urgent need. We are seeking partners to create an **emergency tent camping area this winter**, and I appreciate your help in reaching out to our community religious organizations.

The state authorizes religious organizations to host temporary encampments and limits a local government's ability to regulate these encampments (RCW [35A.21.360](#) for cities). This legislation also grants broad authority to religious organizations to provide shelter or housing to homeless persons on property that these organizations own or control.

The City currently has a group of campers at City Hall who would like to find a temporary place for 30 tents for a 90-day period. I committed to the camp organizers that I would reach out to our religious organizations to see if we can find a partner to host the encampment. The City will provide garbage pick-up and portable toilets if the sponsoring religious organization will provide a space for 30 tents. The encampment will also need to be managed by an organization other than the City.

We are asking our community to help with this urgent need. If any organization is willing to consider this possibility with us, please contact the Mayor's Office at (360) 778-8100 before the end of the day Thursday Dec. 14.

Thank you for all that you do for our community. It will take all of us working together to solve this critical issue.

Regards,

Kelli Linville  
Mayor, City of Bellingham  
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